

**GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH**

**Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening Project  
(UPAGREES Project)**

**Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

**February 2024**

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## 1. Introduction

The Uttar Pradesh Government has an aim to make its GSDP \$1 trillion in the next five years. With 60 percent of the population engaged in agriculture and allied sector activities, agriculture is the primary occupation in the state. This makes UP's growth plans irretrievably intertwined with the growth of the agriculture sector in the State. The agriculture and allied sectors in UP accounted for 21.6% of the Gross-Value Add (GSVA) output of the State in 2021-22, 5% less than 2011-12, but still higher than the national figure of 15.5% in 2021-22. Today, Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of wheat and the second largest producer of rice in India. If they reach their potential, the Uttar Pradesh agriculture and allied sectors have the capacity to not only feed the entire country, but also produce sufficient surplus for exports. However, to reach this potential will require focused efforts. A closer look reveals that the productivity of agricultural crops in Uttar Pradesh has much scope for improvement when compared to that of other states, national and other countries. Further, Bundelkhand and Eastern UP are agriculturally backward and economically poorer than Western and Central regions of the State, and need to be uplifted if UP wants to achieve its growth targets.

## C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

The UPAGREES project aims to promote climate resilient, inclusive, and competitive value-chains of prioritized agriculture commodities in Uttar Pradesh.

To improve climate resilience and commercialization of agrifood systems in selected regions of Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Results

- Project beneficiaries adopting climate smart practices (Number)
- Increase in average annual yield of select crops (Tones/hectare)
- Increase in profitability at the producer level (Percentage)
- Private capital enabled (US\$ million)

## D. Project Description

1. The proposed project aims to address the existing challenges in UP agriculture and allied sectors. The conceptual approach to achieve the PDO is anchored on four interrelated goals:

(i) Support productivity increases in staple crops (including rice and wheat) cultivated by a majority of farmers, through improved access to inputs and the efficient use of natural resources potentially reducing emissions. This would be conducted in the project areas which have relatively low productivity;

(ii) Demonstrate approaches to transform the sector into higher-value produce and value chains through the concept of agro-clusters, which will take a market-led approach to developing the ecosystem to support selected crops to become major drivers of economic growth in the project districts;

(iii) Development of digital architecture to support (state-wide) the efficient delivery of services, improved e-commerce, and standardization of data collection and analysis;

(iv) Strengthen the ecosystem for increasing access to financial services for project beneficiaries and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to enable and leverage private-sector investments.

2. To achieve the above-mentioned goals, the project comprises of five components, viz.,

## 1.2 Project Component

**Component 1: Productivity Enhancement:** This component focuses on strengthening the agricultural productivity against the backdrop of high levels of climate risks and variability in productivity across the project areas. It focuses on strengthening Uttar Pradesh's formidable position as the leading producer of multiple agricultural crops while enhancing the resilience of the dominant production systems. The objective of this component is to address the existing productivity challenges through improved access to climate-smart inputs and efficient use of natural and fostering innovations that promote sustainability.

**Sub-Component 1.1 : Resource Use Efficiency For Productivity Enhancement:** The Activities Proposed are *Soil Productivity Sub System related activities (Soil testing, Green manuring, Soil amendments (Gypsum), Crop Residue Management (CRM), Micronutrients Enhancement), etc.), Soil Input Efficient Sub System related activities (Micro Watershed Approach in Bundelkhand, Bunding and Laser Land Levelling, Enhancing Application of Bio Fertilisers, Conjunctive Water Use and Management (CWUM), etc.), Farming Practices- Technology Sub System Related Activities (Farm Machineries, Plant Protection, etc.), etc.*

**Sub-Component 1.2: Mechanisms for Improved Seed Systems:** The Activities Proposed are Seed Production and Distribution Systems and *Establishment of Seed Hubs*. The project will provide matching grants to individual farmers and collectives engaged in the production and processing of climate-resilient seeds.

**Sub-Component 1.3: Strengthening Extension Services for Tailored Climate Smart agronomic Practices:** Activities Proposed are *Strengthening Advisory Platform at District and State Levels, Partnership with Technical Institutions, Climate Risks mitigation study, Promotion of stress tolerant and climate resilience varieties, Water Efficient system (in particular Bundelkhand), Technology adoption and infrastructure, Awareness and incentive for adoption of climate resilience technologies, Development of storage and transport support, Development of robust monitoring and evaluation framework, etc.*

**Sub-Component 1.4: Leveraging Carbon Markets:** This sub-component will integrate and align the project activities with the UP-Carbon Platform enabled by the World Bank's Climate Warehouse to leverage carbon and sustainability (green) credits. It will align the climate smart agriculture initiatives with the UP-Accelerator and leverage economic dividends for project beneficiaries promoting sustainable, low-Carbon agricultural operations including direct seeding in rice wheat systems, minimal tillage, soil management, water conservation and increased WUEs.

**Component 2: Commodity Clusters:** The objective of this component is to support the integration of smallholder farmers into value chains for select high value commodities, thereby increasing productivity, value addition and farmers' incomes. The component will aim to address the current fragmentation of production and market activities in the sector, and to take advantage of the state's potential to increase the commercialization of select high value crops, both in domestic and export markets.

**Sub-component 2.1 : Development of Agro-Clusters:** The activities Proposed are *Identification of commodities and regions for interventions, Conducting Commodity Wise Diagnostics, Preparation and implementation of Cluster Development Plans (CDP), Mobilisation of Beneficiaries, Improving access to Quality Seeds, Production and distribution of Seeds by Private enterprises, Training for seed processing Testing and Storage, Crop Management Practices, Development of customised Package of Practices (POP), Assessment of Maximum Residue Level (MRL), Demonstration Plots, Training and field Exposures, Farm Mechanisation and IT enabled services, Storage, Processing Facilities, Market Development, Capacity Development and Food Safety, etc.*

**Sub-component 2.2 : Fisheries Clusters Development:** The activities Proposed are *Sustainable increase of production ponds, Assured supply of improved seeds, Establishment, modernization and upgradation of hatcheries, Demonstration of fish nurseries and establishment of captive nurseries, Cost efficient formulated fish*

*feed suitable to designed aquaculture, Updated technologies, Diffusion on innovative technologies through demonstration and extension services, Sustainable enhancement of reservoir fish production, Formation of market linkages and strengthening the value chain, Establishment of fish landing stations, Modern fish markets, Introduction of mini fish processing units, Establishment of retail Kiosks, Establishment of ice plants, Online fish marketing, Capacity building, Quality control and food safety, etc.*

### **Component 3: Strengthening Ecosystems and Promoting Innovations**

**Sub-Component 3.1: Digital Architecture and Technology Services:** Activities proposed are Strengthening and Expanding the Digital and Connectivity Infrastructure, Integrated Agritech Hub with AI, IoT, GIS, Drone Technology, Big Data Analysis, etc. integration and Core Building Blocks and other Sub components, to achieve key outcome of "Agriculture Productivity through Climate Smart Agriculture System (CSA)"

**Sub-Component 3.2: Agri Finance Ecosystem and Promoting innovations:** This component will strive to improve per capita agri-credit from the formal financial institutions to improve productive investments and competitiveness in the agri-allied areas. The activities proposed are funding support to small and marginal farmers to agripreneurs, farmer collectives, and agri MSEs (micro and small enterprises), various application and Agri development including farmers facilitation centers, innovations to promote with Water Based Green Credits.

**Component 4: Project Management, Learning, and Partnerships:** The objectives of this component are to develop management and monitoring systems, enhance staff capacity for effective and efficient implementation of project activities, and develop partnerships with key national and global public and private sector organizations.

**Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC):** The project will include CERC with a zero allocation at project approval. This arrangement shall permit a rapid project restructuring should a disaster strike and allows the Bank to support recovery efforts quickly, if required.

### **1.3 Project Beneficiaries**

The project is proposed to be implemented in ~123 blocks across 28 districts<sup>1</sup> of Eastern UP and Bundelkhand. The direct beneficiaries are (i) 750,000 small and marginal farmers; (ii) 100,000 fishers; and (iii) MSE entrepreneurs. In addition, the project will also support farmers and women through farmer collectives and through the innovative production system approach.

## **2. Objective/Description of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)**

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about project activities or any activities related to the project.

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<sup>1</sup>The districts are Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Jalaun (Jhansi Division); Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, and Mahoba (Chitrakoot Division); Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, and Sant Ravidas Nagar (Vidhyachal Division); Varanasi, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, and Chandauli (Varanasi Division); Gorakhpur, Deoria, Khushinagar and Maharajganj (Gorakhpur Division); Basti, Siddharthnagar, and Sant Kabir Nagar (Basti Division); Azamgarh, Mau, and Ballia (Azamgarh Division); and Bahraich, Balrampur, Gonda, Shravasti (Devipatan Division).

### 3. Stakeholder identification and analysis

#### 3.1 Methodology

In order to meet best practice approaches, the project will apply the following principles for stakeholder engagement:

- *Openness and life-cycle approach:* Public consultations for the project(s) will be arranged during the whole life cycle, carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation.
- *Informed participation and feedback:* Information will be provided to and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; opportunities are provided for communicating stakeholder feedback, and for analysing and addressing comments and concerns.
- *Inclusiveness and sensitivity:* Stakeholder identification is undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the projects is inclusive. All stakeholders at all times are encouraged to be involved in the consultation process. Equal access to information is provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders' needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups that may be at risk of being left out of project benefits, particularly women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and migrant workers and communities, and the cultural sensitivities of diverse ethnic groups.
- *Flexibility:* If social distancing, cultural context (for example, particular gender dynamics), or governance factors (for example, high risk of retaliation) inhibits traditional forms of face-to-face engagement, the methodology should adapt to other forms of engagement, including various forms of internet- or phone-based communication.

#### 3.2. Affected parties and other interested parties<sup>2</sup>

Affected parties include local communities, community members, and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category:

- Farmers involved in agriculture, agribusiness and agri-processing
  - Marginal Farmers
  - Small Farmers
  - Medium Farmers
  - Large Farmers
- Fish farmers
- Agricultural Labourers
- Fisheries Labourers
- Women farmers and fishers
- Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe Farmers and Fishers
- Women SHGs and their federations
- Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Farmer Producer Companies (FPC), Fish Farmer Producer Companies (FFPC), etc.

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<sup>2</sup>For the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, stakeholders of the proposed project(s) can be divided into the following core categories:

- **Affected Parties:** Persons, groups, and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures.
- **Other Interested Parties:** Individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project(s) compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status; and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the project.

### 3.2.1 Other Interested Parties

The projects' stakeholders also include parties other than the directly affected communities, including NGOs, SHG.

- UPDASP, Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries, Horticulture, Planning, Finance, MSME.
- Community Based Organisations such as Farmers associations, Agribusiness and Agri-processing federations/associations
- Gram Panchayats, Gram Pradhans, Nyaya Panchayats, Block Development Officers, and other Elected Representatives.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)
- Soil Testing Laboratories
- Farm Equipment and Agri-processing Equipment Manufacturers and Retailers
- Diversified Agricultural Support Project (DASP) Society
- Custom Hiring Centers (CHC)/ Farm Machinery Banks (FMB)
- National and State Level Research institutions
- NGOs with interest in agricultural/fisheries related activities.
- Financial institutions including MFIs
- Contractors engaged by project
- Print and Electronic Media
- Social Media
- Academia from Academic Institutes
- Public at large

### 3.3. Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups<sup>3</sup>

Within the Project, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups may include but are not limited to the following:

S. No.	Possible vulnerable groups	Barriers to accessing information and/or project benefits
1.	Women Farmers and Fishers	Poor representation and lack of participation in decision making and restrictions in accessing project benefits due to social, economic and cultural condition
2.	Small and marginal Farmers and Fishers Farmers and Fishers belonging to BPL Category	Elite capturing of project benefits, poor representation and lack of participation in decision making and restrictions in accessing project benefits due to social, economic and cultural condition
3.	Landless Agricultural and Fisheries Labourers	Migrate often to other places in different seasons in search of work; lack of participation in decision making, may not be able to avail project benefits
4	Scheduled Castes farmers and fishers	Possible exclusion of the groups in participation in planning and accessing project benefits due to social and cultural condition

<sup>3</sup>It is particularly important to understand whether project impacts may disproportionately fall on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, who often do not have a voice to express their concerns or understand the impacts of a project, and to ensure that awareness raising and stakeholder engagement be adapted to take into account such groups' or individuals' particular sensitivities, concerns, and cultural sensitivities and to ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits. Engagement with vulnerable groups and individuals often requires the application of specific measures and assistance aimed at the facilitation of their participation in the project-related decision making so that their awareness of and input into the overall process are commensurate with those of other stakeholders.

5	Scheduled Tribes farmers and fishers	Possible exclusion of the groups in participation in planning and accessing project benefits due to social and cultural condition
6	Person with Disabilities among farmers and fishers	Possible exclusion during project planning and in accessing benefits, may not participate in decision making

As the project progresses, vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the Project may be added to the above list, further confirmed, and consulted through dedicated means, as appropriate. Description of the methods of engagement that will be undertaken by the project is provided in the following sections.

#### 4. Stakeholder Engagement Program

##### 4.1. Summary of stakeholder engagement done during project preparation

During project preparation, 12 stakeholder consultation meetings were conducted during the month of January 2024 with the participation of the stakeholders mentioned above at selected locations in Banda, Jalaun, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Varanasi, and Chandauli districts. A total of 159 persons (107 male and 52 female), participated in these consultations. The details of these consultations are given below:

S. No.	Stakeholder groups Consulted	District	Date	Participants	
				Male	Female
1.	Farmers, Farmer collectives like FPOs/FPCs and its members involved in agriculture and allied activities	Hamirpur, Banda, Jalaun, Chitrakoot	24/Jan/24 to 30/Jan/ 24	20	9
		Chandauli, Varanasi	30/Jan/24	24	4
2.	Member of Women SHG, women FPOs, CLF office bearers, women farmers, and tenant farmers	Hamirpur, Jalaun and Banda	24/Jan/24 and 24/Jan/24	0	16
3.	Representatives of soil testing labs of Agriculture Department and KVKs	Hamirpur and Jalaun	24/Jan/24	4	1
4.	Members of farmer collectives like FFPOs/FFPCs, fish farmers, private sector players involved in input supply and marketing in the fisheries sector	Jalaun, Banda, and Jhansi	25/Jan/24 to 30/Jan/24	8	2
		Chandauli and Varanasi	31/Jan/24	24	3
5.	Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) and its users	Jalaun, Banda	25/Jan/24 and 28/Jan/24	9	6
6.	Government officials in concerned departments, National and State level Universities & Research institutions and KVKs	Jhansi, Ayodhya and Hamirpur	17/Jan/24	13	2

7.	Men and women from tribal communities	Chitrakoot	31/Jan/24	5	9
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The project information, potential impacts of the project (agriculture related, fisheries, value chain, etc.), benefits of the project, role of the stakeholders, and opportunities and challenges related to agriculture, fisheries, livelihoods, etc. were explained to the participants. After the presentations about the project, the participants gave their feedback. The feedback including any concerns, suggestions, etc. received from the stakeholders during consultations was taken into account by the project to be incorporated into the design. The feedback including any concerns, suggestions, etc. received from the stakeholders during the consultation meetings and the responses provided by the project team are given by each consultation under Annex 1.

#### 4.2. Summary of project stakeholder needs and methods, tools, and techniques for stakeholder engagement

Different engagement methods are proposed and cover different stakeholder needs as stated below:

#### 4.3. Stakeholder engagement plan

Project Stage	Estimated Date/Time Period	Topic of Consultation/ Message	Method Used	Target Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Preparatory Phase	During planning phase, prior to implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project design, scope, approach, benefits, timelines, progress</li> <li>• Any prior permission required for initiating the activities</li> <li>• Grievance management process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face-to-face meetings</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussions</li> <li>• Official letter or notification</li> <li>• Workshops and trainings</li> <li>• Wall writing and paintings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project primary stakeholders (affected parties)</li> <li>• Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals and groups</li> <li>• UPDASP</li> <li>• Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Irrigation, Planning, Finance, MSME</li> <li>• Cluster Planning and Implementation Team</li> <li>• Gram Panchayat</li> <li>• National and State Level Research Institutions</li> <li>• Financial Institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMU</li> <li>• DPMUs</li> </ul>

Project Stage	Estimated Date/Time Period	Topic of Consultation/ Message	Method Used	Target Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Implementation Phase	During Implementation, prior to withdrawal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on project activities and timelines</li> <li>• Grievance redressal management - tools and its usage</li> <li>• Provisions in place for vulnerable groups, WHHs, PwDs, Landless, SCs/ STs, BPL, etc.</li> <li>• Specific design interventions for vulnerable and disadvantaged including</li> <li>• GBV/ SEA/SH and mitigation measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Phone calls</li> <li>• Letters to stakeholder groups</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion</li> <li>• Gram Sabha meetings</li> <li>• Women SHG meetings &amp; CLF meetings</li> <li>• Wall writing and paintings</li> <li>• Signboards</li> <li>• Common places and community centre notice boards</li> <li>• Meetings with local NGO &amp; MFI representatives</li> <li>• Meeting with financial institutions &amp; lead bank at district level</li> <li>• Quarterly/ Half-Yearly Meetings with farm equipment and agri-processing equipment manufacturers at Block/ District level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project primary stakeholders (affected parties)</li> <li>• Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals and groups</li> <li>• Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)</li> <li>• Soil Testing Laboratories</li> <li>• Farm Equipment and Agri-processing Equipment Manufacturers and Retailers</li> <li>• FPO, FPC, FFPC, etc.</li> <li>• Women SHGs &amp; CLFs</li> <li>• CHC &amp; FMB</li> <li>• Gram Panchayat</li> <li>• Farm equipment manufacturers and retailers</li> <li>• Financial institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMU</li> <li>• DPMUs</li> <li>• PROJECT STAFF</li> <li>• GPs</li> </ul>
Withdrawal Phase	Post Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Monitoring</li> <li>• Project outcomes and results</li> <li>• GRM monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project website</li> <li>• Focus Group Discussion</li> <li>• Gram Sabha meetings</li> <li>• SHG &amp; CLF Meetings</li> <li>• Meetings with local NGO and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project primary stakeholders (affected parties)</li> <li>• Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals and groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMU</li> <li>• DPMUs</li> <li>• PROJECT STAFF</li> <li>• GP</li> </ul>

Project Stage	Estimated Date/Time Period	Topic of Consultation/ Message	Method Used	Target Stakeholders	Responsibilities
			MFI representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FPO, FPC, FFPO etc.</li> <li>• Women SHGs&amp; CLFs</li> <li>• CHC&amp; FMB Gram Panchayat</li> <li>• UPDASP, Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Irrigation, Planning, Finance, MSME</li> <li>• Financial Institutions</li> </ul>	

Information will be disclosed through Grievance Mechanism (GM) procedures; project orientation meetings; regular updates on project developments, public notices, press releases, project website, consultation meetings, information leaflets and brochures, information boards, separate focus group meetings with vulnerable groups, Op-Eds, newsletters, site visit meetings, etc. The information will be disclosed in the local language. One state level Stakeholder Consultation Workshop and 4 Regional Level Stakeholder Consultation Workshops will be held to disclose and seek feedback on the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) etc., following which the ESMF documents will be finalized and re-disclosed on UPDASP website (including the World Bank external website). The information will be disclosed through all possible means, ranging from face-to-face meetings with the project stakeholders, distribution of hard copies, posters, leaflets, and brochures, and departments' websites and local media in local language, so that the documents are accessible to all project beneficiaries of the project, including those residing in the remote areas.

#### 4.4. Reporting back to stakeholders

Stakeholders will be kept informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and Grievance Mechanism, and on the project's overall implementation progress.

### 5. Resources and Responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities

#### 5.1. Resources

The PMU will be in-charge of stakeholder engagement activities with the support of DPMUs and Field Offices. The budget for the SEP is Indian Rupees 49.12 crores.

Budget Category	Quantity	Unit Costs INR	Times/ Months	Total Costs INR, Crores
<b>1. Estimated staff salaries* and related expenses</b>				
1a. Co-ordinators/Facilitator/Associates	28	50000	72	10.08
1b. Travel Costs for staff	28	5000	72	1.008
1c. Provision for Community Level Workers	250	5000	72	9
<b>2. Events</b>				
2a. Block/ District Level Workshops/ Events (2 per district per year)	56	50000	6	1.68
2.b. State Level Workshops/ Events (4 per year)	4	400000	6	0.96
2.c. Farm/ Agri processing equipment manufacturers/ retailers meets at Block/ District level (2 per district per year)	56	50000	6	1.68
2.d. FPO/FPC/ FFPO, CLF meets at Block/ District level (2 per district per year)	56	50000	6	1.68
<b>3. Communication campaigns</b>				
3a. Posters, Flyers, News Letters, etc. (lumpsum per district per year)	28	400000	6	6.72
3b. Social media campaign	28	100000	6	1.68
<b>4. Trainings</b>				
4a. Training on social/environmental issues for staff and Communities (2 per district per year)	56	200000	6	6.72
<b>5. Beneficiary surveys</b>				
5a. Mid-project perception survey (lumpsum)	1	10000000	1	1
5b. End-of-project perception survey	1	15000000	1	1.5
<b>6. Grievance Mechanism</b>				
6a. Training of Staff and Committees (1 per district per year)	28	200000	6	3.36
6b. Suggestion boxes in villages (30 villages per district)	840	2000	NA	0.168
6c. GRM Website (Lumpsum)	1	10000000	1	1
<b>7. Other expenses</b>				
7a. Miscellaneous	1	10000000	1	1
<b>TOTAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BUDGET:</b>				<b>49.24</b>
<i>Note: *Salary costs are indicative and can be adjusted if the project will take care of these cost as part of the overall HR cost</i>				

## 5.2. Management functions and responsibilities

The entities responsible for carrying out stakeholder engagement activities are with PMU and DPMU. The stakeholder engagement activities will be documented through a Stakeholder Engagement Management System, which involves community engagement operations, collecting and processing of grievances, and maintaining database developed and maintained by the PMU and DPMUs.

Agency / Individual	Roles and Responsibilities
State Project Management – PMU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the content of the draft SEP (any revisions)</li> <li>Approve prior to release, all IEC materials used to provide information associated with the project (communication material, PowerPoint, posters, leaflets, brochures, press release, website content etc)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve and authorize all stakeholder engagement events and disclosure of material to support stakeholder engagement events</li> <li>• Periodic update of SEP during the course of project implementation based on the emerging needs</li> </ul>
District Management DPMU/DPIU	Project Unit–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide overall guidance and monitoring supervision to the SEP process</li> <li>• Prepare and provide appropriate IEC and communication material, information required to be disclosed to different stakeholder categories</li> <li>• Finalize the timing and duration of SEP related information disclosure and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Orient the Field level staff on SEP and requirements for its operationalization</li> </ul>
Cluster Implementation (PROJECT STAFF)	Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and customize to block level requirements the IEC and communication material provided by the district Office, and the information required to be disclosed to different stakeholder categories.</li> <li>• Ensure that all material/ strategies developed are culturally appropriate and available in easily comprehensible form to stakeholders (based on their profile and their information needs).</li> <li>• Finalize the timing and duration of SEP related information disclosure and stakeholder engagement</li> <li>• Participate either themselves, or identify suitable representative, during all face-to-face stakeholder meetings</li> <li>• Review and sign-off minutes of all engagement events; Maintain the stakeholder database.</li> <li>• Assure participation/ inclusion of stakeholders from vulnerable groups</li> </ul>

## 6. Grievance Redress Mechanism

The main objective of a GRM is to assist to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective, and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved. The project places special emphasis on transparency, accountability, openness and disclosure of information to the community. In keeping with above principles, wide spread disclosure of information through, information boards, wall writings, paintings, awareness generation campaigns, radio programmes, publications, village level workshops, block and district workshops will be carried out. Besides above, through UPDASP websites for information dissemination regarding the project. A dedicated project website will be developed and updated regularly with the latest weekly/ monthly status of activities of the project. The existing GRM available in the state can be accessed by the project stakeholders. The details of these are given below:

### 6.1 Jan Sunwai

Jan Sunwai' ([जनसुनवाई.समाधान उत्तरप्रदेशसरकार \(up.nic.in\)](http://जनसुनवाई.समाधान.उत्तरप्रदेशसरकार.up.nic.in)) is an integrated grievance redressal system developed by the Uttar Pradesh government to achieve the objectives of good governance through the use of information technology. This system facilitates easy and transparent communication between citizens and government departments/offices. Citizens can register and track complaints online (website and Samadhan android app) at any time. Complaints received through various channels can be made available on a single portal/platform, making it convenient for departmental officials to efficiently resolve and monitor grievances. This system aims to provide a smooth and accessible mechanism for the resolution and monitoring of complaints for both citizens and government authorities.

## 6.2 GRM at UPDASP

Complaints can be registered with UPDASP on the department website ([https:// https://updasp.org](https://www.updasp.org)). Status of these complaints can be tracked against the complaint number received ([www.updasp.org](http://www.updasp.org)). Stakeholders are welcome to use this facility. They can also write through postal correspondence at the following address; Project Coordination Unit, UPDASP, Uttar Pradesh 4th Floor, PICUP Bhawan Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow - 226010. At district level written complaints can be made to the project manager by visiting their office (DPMU) during working hours or put in the suggestion/complaint box. Similarly, at the block level complaints can be made to Dy manager (at Block level Project Unit) in writing. All complaints are usually resolved within one week of reporting, in exceptional circumstances depending on the nature of complaint additional time may be required. All the complains received will be compiled at the block/district levels and then sent PMU for record.

### 6.1. Description of GM

Step	Description of Process	TimeFrame	Responsibility
GM implementation structure	As described above		
Grievance uptake	Grievances can be submitted via the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-mail</li> <li>Letter to Grievance focal points at local facilities</li> <li>Complaint form to be lodged via any of the above channels</li> <li>Walk-ins may register a complaint in a grievance logbook at a facility or suggestion box</li> <li>Toll Free Number</li> </ul>	30 days	PROJECT STAFF/GP
Sorting, processing	Any complaint received is forwarded to GP/Project Staff, Logged in Grievance Register/box, and categorized according to the complaint types	Upon receipt of complaint	Local grievance focal points
Acknowledgment and follow-up	Receipt of the grievance is acknowledged to the complainant by GP/Project Staff	Within 3-4 days of receipt	Local grievance focal points
Verification, investigation, action	Investigation of the complaint is led by GP/Project Staff. A proposed resolution is formulated by GP and communicated to the complainant by GP	Within 10 working days	Complaint Committee composed of GP/Project Staff
Monitoring and evaluation	Data on complaints are collected in Grievance Registers and reported to PMU every month	Monthly basis	By DPMU/Nodal GM Officers
Provision of feedback	Information about the grievance redressal will be provided to the complainants and feedback from complainants regarding their satisfaction with complaint resolution is collected by GP/Project Staff	Within 10 working days of providing resolution.	Focal point at Project Staff/DPMU

Step	Description of Process	TimeFrame	Responsibility
Training	Training needs for staff/consultants in the DPMU, private partners, and support agencies/Consultants are, a) awareness on GRM, b) procedures for GRM and c) Recording and reporting on Grievances		
If relevant, payment of reparations following complaint resolution	Payment of reparations following complaint resolution will be documented and signed by both parties on receipt of the amount. Payment of reparation related to employee accidents and fatalities will be undertaken as per the requirements of the Employee/ Worker Compensation Act, 1923.		
If relevant, payment for livelihood loss complaints/PAPs resolution	Payments to the livelihood loss complainants/project affected persons, if applicable as per applicability of R&R Act 2013.		

The GM will provide an appeals process if the complainant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution timeframe of the complaint. Once all possible means to resolve the complaint have been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied, then they should be advised of their right to legal recourse.

When relevant, the project will have other measures in place to handle sensitive and confidential complaints, including those related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH) in line with the World Bank ESF Good Practice Note on SEA/SH.

The Labor Grievance Redress Mechanism, will be constituted for each of the contract packages and the workers can use it. The Labor GRM is described in detail in the Labor Management Procedures.

At block level/district level, the DPMUs will be sensitized to take up any workers related Grievances and support the project in monitoring the vendors/ contractors' performance on OHS and labour and working conditions. At DPMU Level, the District Managers will be the Grievance Officers for workers, who will report on the status of workers grievances in their respective DPMUs. At PMU Level, a Social Specialist will be the grievance officer for workers, who will report on the status of workers grievances.

## 7. SEP Implementation Monitoring and Reporting

### 7.1. SEP Implementation Monitoring

The UP - AGREES will adopt the following mechanisms to manage stakeholder feedback and comments, and to report back to the stakeholders:

- UPDASP (PMU) will ensure that feedback and comments received through emails, web portal and telephone numbers are acknowledged by registering them in a logbook and will be addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.
- A periodic review of the implementation of the SEP will be undertaken at the DPMU and reflected in periodic progress reports submitted to the PMU at the state level. The information collated will be published and disclosed by the AD and FD. The report will contain, among others, summary information on Program achievements against targets, condition/ status of works, cursory future plans, and grievances received versus resolved.
- PMU will monitor the following indicators:

- Number of consultation meetings and other public discussions/ forums conducted within a reporting period (monthly/quarterly/annually)
  - Number and types of IEC materials developed and disseminated
  - Number of training events conducted on SEP implementation, GRM, worker and community health and safety, etc. and number of participants (male/female/vulnerable and disadvantaged)
  - Number and type of grievances received within a reporting (monthly/quarterly/annually) and number of those resolved within the prescribed timeline
  - Types and number of awareness creation/information dissemination activities held on GRM, GBV, etc.
  - Number of community consultations for citizen feedback conducted during project implementation. Number of participants in each consultation (gender disaggregated data).
  - Number of project information boards with GRM details displayed at the project sites.
- Further, the SEP will continue to incorporate new issues that have come to light, and concerns and queries raised by the stakeholders during the project implementation. It will also provide information on how the feedback has been considered and addressed by PMU.
  - Prior to sub-project preparation/ environmental and social impact assessments for the sub-projects, if any, participatory tools such as transect walks may be adopted to identify issues and its impact will be discussed with members of the local communities.
  - Public engagement events will also be conducted at the cluster/block/district/state level during the sub-project preparation phase. Events' attendees will include affected communities, local government representatives (respective block, district and state officials, Panchayat leaders, and women), farmers, fishers, agribusinesses, agripreneurs, collectives, Federations, State and national research institutions, local civil society organizations, farm/ agriculture/ agri-processing equipment and machinery manufacturers and retailers, financial institutions, press and media, local businesses, and AD and FD office representatives etc.. The events will explain the scope of the contracts, estimated costs and land requirement (if any), requirements on the part of the contractor regarding gender-based violence, occupational health and safety (OHS), and environmental and social risk mitigation measures.
  - In addition, a beneficiary satisfaction survey will be carried out by independent consultants to be on boarded by PMU. The first survey will be conducted after two years of implementation, and the second survey in the last year of implementation.

## **7.2. Reporting back to stakeholder groups**

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation. Quarterly reports and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries, and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventive actions, will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project. The quarterly reports will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in various ways such as letters, meetings, media briefings, etc.

## Annexes

### Annexure 1.Stakeholders Consultations Summary by Each Stakeholder Consultation

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
1.	24/Jan/24 to 30/Jan/24	Hamirpur, Banda, Jalaun, Chitrakoot	20	9	Farmers, Farmer collectives like FPOs/FPCs and its members involved in agriculture and allied activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the FPO/FPC members.</li> <li>- Discussed the primary activities of FPO/FPC</li> <li>- FPOs/FPCs face several challenges to stay relevant and sustainable primarily because FPO/FPC promotion is not demand driven, lack of knowledge among members &amp; Board of Directors, lack of trust among farmers, limited market linkages &amp; support for sale of commodities.</li> <li>- There is huge potential for seed production, agro processing and storage infrastructure development, however it needs to be developed.</li> <li>- Our endeavor is to ensure equitable distribution of benefits among our members. However, active participation and engagement of all members and board of directors in the FPO/FPC activities is difficult due to various reasons.</li> <li>- Women and vulnerable groups have representation in the FPO/FPC, however their participation is also limited.</li> <li>- Landless people are not members of the FPO/FPC. However, those who have leased agriculture land can become a member and benefit from FPO/FPC operations.</li> <li>- Limited avenues for training and capacity building/skill enhancement of FPO/FPC members and management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better planning and technical assistance is expected to promote climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable agriculture development in the region.</li> <li>- Technical assistance and capacity building activities are expected to bridge the knowledge gap of FPO/FPCs and their members.</li> <li>- Storage, primary processing and seed production to contribute to strengthening of FPO/FPCs and farmers income.</li> <li>- Project will promote inclusion and participation of women and vulnerable groups in collectives.</li> <li>- Project will promote dovetailing with central and state government schemes and programs to enable better coverage and reach to intended beneficiaries.</li> <li>- Project activities are expected to create a favorable environment for accessing formal credit by farmers and its collectives.</li> <li>- Project intends to promote custom hiring centers (CHC) to increase availability of farm machinery at the local level.</li> <li>- Project will facilitate frequent meetings with farm/ agri-processing equipment and machinery manufacturers and retailers on regular basis at block and district level</li> <li>- Project to focus on crop residue management which is expected to bring water use efficiency and reduce carbon footprint of agriculture.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> </ul>
	30/Jan/24	Chandauli, Varanasi	24	4			

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central and state government is providing support to FPO/FPC, but due to limited knowledge it is difficult to access the support.</li> <li>- Accessing formal finance is not difficult for well-established FPO/FPCs, however smaller FPOs/FPCs with no asset base face financial constraints that may impact their operations.</li> <li>- Availability of farm machinery on rent is limited, specialized equipment like laser levers is negligible.</li> <li>- Crop residue management is not a priority for the farmers and FPO/FPCs.</li> <li>- Stray cattle are a big threat to agriculture in UP. Strengthening, gaushalas can help in mitigating this issue. The project can possibly intervene in this aspect.</li> <li>- Availability of good quality seed is another factor impacting agriculture productivity in the area.</li> <li>- Land required for infrastructure development such as storage, seed bank, processing facility etc. is contributed by FPO/FPC members or is negotiated and purchased by the FPO/FPC at market rate under a willing seller - willing buyer arrangement. Grievances if any are handled by the board of directors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project will not infringe with the customary land take practices recognized by the Indian Constitution and followed in the state.</li> </ul>
2.	24/Jan/24 and 24/Jan/24	Hamirpur, Jalaun and Banda	0	16	Member of Women SHG, women FPOs, CLF office bearers, women farmers, and tenant farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the participants.</li> <li>- Women SHGs are formed under multiple programs in UP, NRLM being the frontrunner.</li> <li>- SHGs are federated at cluster level into CLFs.</li> <li>- Only few SHGs are active and engaged in income generation activities, remaining are either dormant or limited to saving and inter-lending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical assistance and capacity building activities are expected to bridge the knowledge gap of FPO/FPCs, SHG and their federations.</li> <li>- Women's collectives supported by the value chain improvement activities are likely to raise incomes of women in the project area.</li> <li>- Storage, processing, and value chain support for select commodities is likely to create a more favourable eco-system and bring markets closer to communities.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only a subset of active SHGs are involved in agriculture or allied activities.</li> <li>- Some SHGs are involved in organic farming, however they are not able to fetch a premium for their produce in the local market.</li> <li>- Limited knowledge about certification and market linkages lead to sub-optimum value realization for agriculture products.</li> <li>- Some active SHGs are supplying vegetables to schools and local shops. However, there is no value chain to sell bulk production.</li> <li>- SHGs are also involved in primary and secondary processing of agriculture produce like – processing of wheat, millet, pulses, producing flour, <i>dalia</i>, <i>laddo</i>, <i>sweets</i> etc. However, due limited market linkages sale of produce is difficult.</li> <li>- Limited transportation facility, timely availability of farm machinery/tools, distance to market, unavailability of micro cold storages are problems associated with agriculture commodities.</li> <li>- Vegetable cultivation is majorly taking place in riverbeds which are prone to flood losses.</li> <li>- Stray cattle are a big threat to agriculture in UP.</li> <li>- Finance to SHGs is available, however formal finance to all women FPO may be difficult.</li> <li>- Women SHGs are also involved in various other non-farm activities. However, market linkage is a common challenge.</li> <li>- SHGs and Women FPOs can get involved in processing of oilseeds (cold press oil production), vegetable processing - grading, drying, grinding etc.</li> <li>- No instance of gender-based violence (GBV) at workplace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project activities are expected to create a favorable environment for accessing formal credit by women farmers and its collectives.</li> <li>- Project intends to promote custom hiring centers (CHC) to increase availability of farm machinery at the local level which is likely to benefit women farmers as well.</li> <li>- Project will provide information to women farmers and their collectives to access available grievance redressal mechanism.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> <li>- Project will not infringe with the customary land take practices recognized by the Indian Constitution and followed in the state.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						- Limited awareness and exposure to available grievance redressal mechanism	
3.	24/Jan/24	Hamirpur and Jalaun	04	01	Representatives of soil testing labs of Agriculture Department and KVKs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the participants including the importance of soil testing in the project's scheme of activities.</li> <li>- 3,500 sample per year are tested in agriculture department lab. The installed capacity is much higher, but due to unavailability of technician, breakdown of equipment and supply disruption of reagents/ chemicals optimum capacity utilization is not possible.</li> <li>- Micronutrient testing is offered by select labs.</li> <li>- Soil samples are either collected by agriculture department staff, KVKs or the farmer themselves.</li> <li>- No guidelines or protocols available for safe disposal of solid and liquid waste generated at the lab. Presently liquid waste is disposed in municipal sewer line leading to soil and water pollution.</li> <li>- Soil is disposed after one year of testing in nearby dumpsites.</li> <li>- No PPE kits for lab technicians. No fire extinguisher and other safety equipment in the lab.</li> <li>- Adequate and timely supply of chemicals and reagents from the department for carrying out soil testing is a challenge.</li> <li>- Provide standard recommendations generated through the national portal for soil amendments and PAP for selected crops. However, adherence to the recommendation by farmers is dependent on various external factors influencing the farmers choice.</li> <li>- The current staff strength is limited, not in a position to take up additional tasks/ samples.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project intends to utilize existing soil testing labs at the district level.</li> <li>- The budget provision for soil testing under the project may be used for increasing the testing capacity at select labs.</li> <li>- Project will develop guidelines for waste disposal and handling at the labs.</li> <li>- Project may aid the lab technicians through training and capacity building on waste disposal and OHS aspects.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						- Usually labs do not receive complaints, however complaints can be made through the DDA office.	
4.	25/Jan/24 to 30/Jan/24 and 31/Jan/24	Jalaun, Banda, and Jhansi  Chandauli and Varanasi	08  24	02  03	Members of farmer collectives like FFPOs/FFPCs, fish farmers, private sector players involved in input supply and marketing in the fisheries sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the FFPOs/FFPCs members.</li> <li>- Fisheries has a huge potential in Uttar Pradesh. If it is done appropriately with required technical knowledge and resources, farmers can easily make up to 20-30% net profit.</li> <li>- Pangasius and Indian major carps (IMC) form the mainstay of freshwater aquaculture in UP and contribute over 90 percent of the total freshwater aquaculture production in the state.</li> <li>- Government schemes/ programmes such as PM Matsya Sampada Yojana and CM Matsya Sampada Yojana are being implemented in the state which provides assistance to the farmers.</li> <li>- However, the sector faces the following key challenges, such as a) Lack of technical knowledge and support among fish farmers, b) Inadequate infrastructure for capacity building of fish farmers, c) Lack of Infrastructure for storage and transportation, d) Poor market intelligence and inadequate market linkages, e) Limited knowledge about diseases in fish, which also results in huge financial losses to farmers, f) Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit set by government is not adequate for fish farming; thus, the KCC limits for fisheries should be rationalized to meet the credit requirement of fish farmers, g) Good quality Pangasius Fish Seed availability is a challenge in many districts of UP, h) The private sector does not pay adequate attention to quality of seed, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better planning and technical assistance is expected to promote climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable fisheries development in the region.</li> <li>- Technical assistance and capacity building activities are expected to bridge the knowledge gap of fish farmers and their collectives.</li> <li>- Streamlining input supply, storage, transportation, and market development/ linkages is expected to contribute to farmers income.</li> <li>- Project will develop guidelines for proper waste disposal and handling at fish farming sites especially in places with tank lining and biofloc.</li> <li>- Project will promote inclusion and participation of women and vulnerable groups in the fisheries sector.</li> <li>- Project will promote dovetailing with central and state government schemes and programs to enable better coverage and reach to intended beneficiaries.</li> <li>- Project activities are expected to create a favorable environment for accessing formal credit by fish farmers and collectives.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> <li>- Project will not infringe with the customary land take practices recognized by the Indian Constitution and followed in the state.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farm pond-based fish farming has additional benefits such as - Increased ground water recharge capacity, increased irrigation potential, increased agriculture productivity and crop diversification.</li> <li>- UP AGREES project should focus on promoting integrated farming practices in UP through agriculture, horticulture and fisheries.</li> <li>- Per capita consumption of fish is less in UP, especially in Bundelkhand region as compared to other states. Further, there are no well-established market linkages for exporting fish to other states. Therefore, promotion of fisheries without proper market linkages will lead in over production at local level resulting in lower market price and losses to fish farmers.</li> </ul>	
5.	25/Jan/24 and 28/Jan/24	Jalaun, Banda	09	06	Custom Hiring Centers (CHC) and its users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the participants.</li> <li>- Availability of farm machinery on rent is limited in the area. They are easily available and accessible to large farmers.</li> <li>- Accessibility to small and marginal farmers is limited, as servicing small land holding is not economically viable for private service providers.</li> <li>- Financial assistance for setting up the CHC is available through government schemes. However, it is not adequate to purchase all the machinery including tractor.</li> <li>- In some cases, farm machineries have been purchased through government scheme but are not being used due to unavailability of tractor – which was not financed through the scheme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project intends to promote custom hiring centers (CHC) to increase availability of farm machinery at the local level.</li> <li>- Project may develop guidelines to ensure priority to small holders and women farmers through CHCs.</li> <li>- Increased capacity or promotion of new CHC is expected to increase the availability of farm machinery to smallholder and women farmers.</li> <li>- Project may recommend SOPs for O&amp;M of farm machineries in CHCs.</li> <li>- Project will develop guidelines for waste disposal and handling at CHCs.</li> </ul> <p>Project will aid farmers through capacity and advisory support along with farm machinery.</p>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No provision for technical assistance and training, CHCs manage themselves using their own resources.</li> <li>- About 50-60 members are benefiting from FPO operated CHS in a cropping season, which is about 10-20% of the membership.</li> <li>- The rental charges are fixed based on the market rate, usually 20% less than the market rate.</li> <li>- We provide flexibility to our customer for making rental payments by collecting rent at the time of harvest. This facility is not provided by the private sector operators to small holders.</li> <li>- CHC committee prepares a schedule/ roster for renting out farm machinery among target farmers, preference is given to small holders as they are not serviced by private operators.</li> <li>- Women farmers also get equal opportunity in renting machinery.</li> <li>- Basic maintenance and washing are carried out by the CHC, no facility for advance maintenance and repair.</li> <li>- No protocols for waste disposal.</li> <li>- No protocols/guidelines for occupational health and safety of users and operators.</li> <li>- Cold storage is required at the village level, CHC can provide this facility as well.</li> <li>- At present harvesters/ combined harvest are not available with CHC. There is huge demand for harvesters, which is currently being met by service providers from Punjab and Haryana.</li> <li>- Micro irrigation equipment not available through CHCs.</li> </ul>	

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						- No formal mechanism for handling grievances, usually managed by the CHC management/ FPO BoD.	
6.	17/Jan/24	Jhansi, Ayodhya and Hamirpur	13	02	Government officials in concerned departments, National and State level Universities & Research institutions and KVKs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the participants.</li> <li><b>Fisheries:</b></li> <li>- At present Fish culture pressure is not there in Bundelkhand region as compared to Eastern UP. However, while promoting fish culture under the U.P AGREES project adequate measures should be taken to address the possible adverse impact of fish culture on the environment, especially on water and soil.</li> <li>- The project should focus on training farmers on sustainable development and environmental aspects of fisheries.</li> <li>- Disease surveillance and advisory is missing in the fisheries sector, both public and private sector can play an important role on this aspect.</li> <li>- The project may also consider promoting treatment mechanism for large scale production through bioremediation and chlorination.</li> <li>- Comprehensive and easy to understand guidelines should be developed to address the concerns highlighted by the stakeholders including the farmers.</li> <li>- The guidelines should specifically cover issues related to usage of medicines, water and disposal of wastewater etc. by fish farmers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better planning and technical assistance is expected to promote climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable fisheries development in the region.</li> <li>- Technical assistance and capacity building activities are expected to bridge the knowledge gap of fish farmers and their collectives on various aspects related to fish culture including the environmental concerns around pollution.</li> <li>- Project will develop guidelines for proper waste disposal and handling at fish farming sites especially in places with tank lining and biofloc. All the guidelines would be prepared in local language and properly disseminated to the target fish farmers.</li> <li>- Similarly, guidelines would be made for proper waste disposal and handling at collection, fish processing and sale sites.</li> <li>- The UP AGREES project would work toward strengthening the market infrastructure/ facilities and market linkages.</li> <li>- Project activities are expected to create a favorable environment for accessing formal credit by agriculture and fish farmers and their collectives.</li> <li>- Storage, primary processing and seed production to contribute to strengthening of FPO/FPCs and farmers income.</li> <li>- The project will explore possibility of involving women collectives in agro processing activities.</li> <li>- The project has provision of developing seed hubs, appropriate consultations would be done with KVKs</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop guidelines for supply and usage of quality fish seeds and inputs.</li> <li>- All the guidelines should be prepared in local language as per the standard norms applicable in the local context.</li> <li>- Pangasius and IMC has high potential to be promoted at intensive or semi-intensive scale.</li> <li>- The project should work toward strengthening the transport infrastructure/ facilities and market linkages to cater to the export market.</li> <li>- Most farmers practicing biofloc production have very limited understanding of the requirement and input ratio. Thus, special attention should be provided to such farmers under the project, to ensure adherence to sustainable practices.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Agriculture:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seed production has a good potential in the state especially through FPOs.</li> <li>- Jhansi/Lalitpur has good potential for ground nut, pulses and oil seed production and its primary and secondary processing which can be explored through the project.</li> <li>- Seed hubs and processing unit are available at KVKs.</li> <li>- KVKs can support in training and knowledge transfer, demonstrations etc.</li> <li>- The UP AGREES project can leverage from these existing infrastructure and facilities at</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at the time of selecting locations for creation of seed hubs.</li> <li>- The project will have provisions for setting up custom hiring centers. The locations, machinery mix, training and other aspects would be discussed with the concerned stakeholders at the time of implementation.</li> <li>- Best practices around crop residue management would be studied/ explore for replication in the project area.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> <li>- Project will not infringe with the customary land take practices recognized by the Indian Constitution and followed in the state.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<p>KVKs, however human resource availability is a constraint at KVKs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some FPOs have demonstrated good models for crop residue management, the project can leverage from the learnings of such FPOs.</li> <li>- Stray cattle are a threat to agriculture in UP. Strengthening, gaushalas can help in mitigating this issue. The project can possibly intervene in this aspect.</li> <li>- Promotion of micro irrigation has good potential in the Bundelkhand region.</li> <li>- Better communication, training, knowledge transfer, provision of farm machinery at local level can support crop residue management.</li> <li>- Farming is increasingly becoming unviable for small holders due to various factors including the cost of cultivation. Thus, increasing their vulnerability.</li> </ul>	
7.	31/Jan/24	Chitrakoot	05	09	Men and women from tribal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussed project objectives with the participants.</li> <li>- The area is dominated by Kol tribal group</li> <li>- This area faces the major problems of water scarcity both for drinking and irrigation. As a result, it is a rainfed mono cropping area with low agriculture productivity.</li> <li>- Low crop production is also leading to food scarcity in the area.</li> <li>- Irrigation infrastructure created under various government program and schemes like farm ponds, check dams dry up during summer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better planning and technical assistance is expected to promote climate resilient, inclusive and sustainable agriculture development in the region with focus on crop selection and POPs suitable for the area.</li> <li>- Seed production activities under the project to contribute to strengthening of agriculture and farmers income in target villages.</li> <li>- Project will promote inclusion and participation of women and vulnerable groups in project activities.</li> <li>- Project will promote dovetailing with central and state government schemes for irrigation infrastructure development. Project to provide</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						<p>months. Maintenance of these irrigation infrastructures is also poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dug well-constructed in the villages are not deep enough to provide clean and adequate water.</li> <li>- Manual labour and selling firewood from nearby forest are major contributors to livelihood of people.</li> <li>- People generally participate in village level/ panchayat meetings and raise their concerns. However, project/ scheme benefits do not reach the target beneficiaries always.</li> <li>- Low level of education and awareness are also reason for poor socio-economic condition in tribal dominated villages.</li> <li>- Availability of good quality seed is another factor impacting agriculture productivity in the area.</li> <li>- The project should focus on introducing drought resilient crops/ varieties, cash crops or other activities suitable for our area so that maximum people can benefit from them.</li> <li>- Access and availability of farm machinery on rent is limited in the area.</li> <li>- Fish farming would be difficult in the area due to water scarcity and unavailability of market linkages.</li> <li>- Women SHGs have been formed in the village, however they are inactive due to inadequate support /cooperation from concerned agencies and regional banks.</li> </ul>	<p>financial assistance for micro irrigation equipment deployment which can irrigate more area in less water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project activities are expected to create a favorable environment for accessing formal credit by farmers, its collectives and SHGs.</li> <li>- Project intends to promote custom hiring centers (CHC) to increase availability of farm machinery at the local level.</li> <li>- Women's collectives will be supported by the value chain improvement activities which are likely to raise incomes of women in the area.</li> <li>- Project grievances will be handled through customary practices with the option of accessing the project GRM directly or through escalation available to the aggrieved.</li> <li>- Project will implement extensive stakeholder engagement activities to seek your regular feedback for effective project implementation.</li> </ul>

S. No.	Date	District	Participants		Stakeholder groups Consulted	Feedback from Stakeholders	Response from Project
			Male	Female			
						- Women and SHGs have bank account however they remain inaccessible or very few people can access them.	