

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10910
Project Name:	Promoting eco-friendly crop protection solutions for persistent organic pollutant and highly hazardous pesticide reduction in Asia
Countr(ies):	Regional, India, Philippines
Implementing Agency:	UNIDO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Promoting eco-friendly crop protection solutions for persistent organic pollutant and highly hazardous pesticide reduction in Asia

Country

Regional, India, Philippines

GEF ID

10910

Implementing Agency

UNIDO

Executing Entity

HIL(India) Limited; Philippine Agriculture and Resources Research Foundation, Inc.

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/9/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To establish sustainable financing, investment and incentive mechanisms in the formulation, production and application of eco-friendly crop protection solutions for reduction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) enhancing livelihood, food safety and protection to human health and the environment.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

7,630,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

65,733.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 8/9/2023	Agency Approval 9/28/2023
Implementation Start 10/27/2023	First Disbursement
Expected MTR 3/31/2026	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 6/30/2028	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

The India FARM Project has made significant progress during the first year of implementation. Key achievements include the following:

- **Substantial reduction in POP usage:** The production and consumption of Persistent Organic Pollutants (DDT and Dicofof) have been reduced from approximately 700 metric tonnes (MT) to less than 300 MT.
- **Reduction in Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs):** The production and use of key HHPs—namely Acephate, Monocrotophos, Chlorpyrifos, Malathion, Mancozeb, and Pendimethalin—have been brought down from approximately 5,500 MT to around 4,000 MT.
- **Capacity building of farmers:** Training was imparted to nearly one million farmers, with women accounting for approximately 35% of participants.
- **Health and safety benefits:** Around one million farmers have been protected from exposure to hazardous agrochemicals through awareness and adoption of safer practices.
- **Promotion of safer alternatives:** Activities have been initiated to facilitate the transition of agricultural lands from conventional hazardous pesticide use to safer alternatives.
- **Technology transfer and scale-up:** Laboratory-scale technology for *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk)-based biopesticides has been successfully transferred from ICAR-NBAIR to HIL (India) Limited, formerly, Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) for scale-up and commercial production. A tender has been issued for the selection of a suitable consultant to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Engineering design. In addition, a technology partner for *Trichoderma* spp. has been identified, and commercial negotiations are currently underway.

In the case of the Philippines, since it is still waiting for the official approval from the national government of its implementation, limited activities were performed. The team has been actively participating in periodic calls for Project Managers, Communications and Knowledge Management, and the Regional Group. Given the interconnected activities with India, the Philippines also conducted pre-implementation activities related to the assessment of the key regulatory policies on pesticide in the country and market price analysis for biopesticides. Moreover, the Philippines has also identified the key programs and projects on financing for the farmers and training programs promoting eco-friendly crop solutions, especially of the government, that can be utilized for the implementation of the project.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Key Challenges Encountered During Project Implementation:

1. **Limited Access to Finance for Farmers**

Despite extensive awareness initiatives, many farmers continue to face difficulties in accessing financial support such as subsidies, loans, or insurance. Procedural complexities and documentation requirements often act as barriers, limiting the uptake of project-supported solutions. To address this, HIL is integrating financial literacy and access modules into the Training of Trainers (ToT) manual to better equip beneficiary farmers in navigating these systems.

2. **Communication Gaps in Remote Areas**

Inadequate connectivity and poor digital infrastructure in rural and remote farming communities, coupled with low levels of digital literacy, have hampered effective communication and information dissemination among stakeholders.

3. **Barriers to Adoption of Safer Alternatives**

Farmers often exhibit reluctance in adopting safer alternatives, such as biopesticides, due to their relatively slower observable effects when compared to conventional chemical pesticides. Overcoming this challenge requires sustained awareness efforts, on-field demonstrations, and the provision of complementary support mechanisms

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders of this project in India are:

1. 1. Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change: Responsible for the preparation and implementation of policies related to environment safety and also the regulatory body in providing the necessary approvals for setting up of manufacturing facilities for proposed safer alternatives.
2. 2. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Responsible for the preparation and implementation of policies related to agriculture and the welfare of the farmers, regulatory body in issuing the registration of the safer alternative products, licensing authority to manufacture the products.
3. 3. Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers: Responsible for the preparation and implementation of policies related to manufacturing of commercial scale industrial products, and also the Administrative Ministry of the PEE in India. They also extend cofinance support in organizing ToT programs for creating awareness among farmers.
4. 4. National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF): An institution established in 1977 to promote research, development, and extension in horticultural crops, especially bulbous vegetables like onion, garlic, etc. NHRDF regularly conducts R&D in horticulture, develop high-yielding crop varieties, provides quality seeds and planting material, offers farmer training and extension services, Runs soil testing laboratories and plant pathology services, etc.
5. 5. Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUT): A State Agricultural University located in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, established in 1975, carries out robust research in addressing food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural livelihoods through multidisciplinary initiative.
6. 6. Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU): A central agricultural university located in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, carries out research in addressing food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural livelihoods through multidisciplinary initiative.

D. Gender Equality

Key Gender-Specific Benefits of the project:

- **Improved Women's Health**

The project aims to significantly reduce female farmers' exposure to hazardous pesticides, thereby lowering the risk of health issues such as respiratory illnesses, reproductive disorders, and chronic conditions associated with prolonged pesticide use.

- **Enhanced Awareness and Capacity Building**

The project ensures inclusive participation of women in training programmes, awareness campaigns, and occupational safety initiatives. It equips them with essential knowledge and resources—including

the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)—to adopt safer and more sustainable pest management practices.

- Increased Agricultural Productivity

By improving the health and safety of female farmers, the project enables their greater contribution to agricultural activities. This leads to enhanced household income, improved food security, strengthened community resilience, and contributes directly to the overall success of the FARM Project

E. Knowledge Management

Component 1: Policy and Enforcement

- Compendium on existing policies on crop protection and current initiatives
- Compendium on existing regulations on crop protection product registration
- Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop model on educating farmers on “Safe and Judicious use of pesticides by adopting IPM and organic farming”
- Multilingual Technical handouts on Dos & Don’ts while handling of pesticides, safer alternatives and other relevant information
- Database of area of key crop at the target area at the ToT locations along with the Gender disaggregated data
- Information bulletins on the pros and cons of POPs pesticides and HHPs and introduction of biopesticides
- Testimonials of biopesticides users

Component 2: Finance and Investment

- Information bulletins and newsletters
- Visuals as presentation materials for farmer communities/cooperatives

Component 3: Capacity Development and Knowledge Dissemination

- Survey and evaluation reports of awareness raising activities
- Press and social media releases
- Blogs and testimonies

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	

Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Maharashtra	19.500000	76.000000	1,264,418

Location Description:

Project location targeting Cotton, Chilli, Vegetable, Fruits Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Punjab	30.916667	75.416667	1,259,223

Location Description:

Project location targeting Wheat

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Uttarakhand	30.250000	79.250000	144,366

Location Description:

Project location targeting Paddy, Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Assam	26.000000	93.0000	1,278,253
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Location Description:

Project location targeting Tea

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Uttar Pradesh	27.250000	80.750000	1,253,626

Location Description:

Project location targeting Wheat, Paddy, Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Karnataka	14.666667	75.833333	1,267,701

Location Description:

Project location targeting Coffee, Cotton, Chilli, Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Madhya Pradesh	23.500000	78.500000	1,264,542

Location Description:

Project location targeting Wheat

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Andhra Pradesh	15.833333	79.750000	1,278,629

Location Description:

Project location targeting Chilli, Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
West Bengal	24.000000	88.000000	1,252,881

Location Description:

Project location targeting Tea, Paddy, and Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bihar	25.750000	85.750000	1,275,715

Location Description:

Project location targeting Wheat, Paddy, Vegetable Crops

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 10910_2025_PIR_UNIDO_ASIA_Annex 1_ Logframe
Document Category M and E Document	Title 10910_2025_PIR_UNIDO_ASIA_Annex 2_ workplan
Document Category M and E Document	Title 10910_2025_PIR_UNIDO_ASIA_Annex 3_Grant Delivery Report
Document Category M and E Document	Title 10910_2025_PIR_UNIDO_ASIA