

JD – CM Rural Development Fellow Agriculture

'Village Social Transformation Foundation' (herewith referred to as 'Foundation') is a section 8 company formed under the able guidance of Hon' Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as an initiative to transform the 1000 worst affected villages by drought and other social challenges in Maharashtra.

The Rural Development Fellow (RDF) would be placed in the selected villages to work closely with the field functionaries of the department of Agriculture and allied sectors and strive to bridge the gap between people's needs and the projects provisions by reducing developmental and governance deficits.

Key roles and responsibilities to be performed by Rural Fellow are:

- Serving as a link between the Project administration, VCRMC and the village community;
- Conducting socio-economic analysis to ascertain the needs of the people;
- Working closely with the Gram Panchayat (GP) & VCRMC to prepare participatory Village Development Plan;
- Liaising with farmer friends, resource agencies, and community in each of the villages in the cluster to facilitate the preparation of the micro-plan and the annual action plans;
- Liaise with VCRMC and the gram-sabha for the approval of the micro-plans after they are technically validated;
- Execution of the Cluster Development Plans;
- Support and assist the selected farmers in availing the project benefits;
- Building the capacities of the farmers to design cropping as well as farming systems keeping in view the contingency plans for the clusters;
- Carry out extension activities for promoting climate resilient farming practices;
- Facilitate organization, conduct and documentation of farm field schools, microplanning and other related activities;
- Support, facilitation and hand holding of the farmer producer companies (FPC), self-help groups (SHG), farmer interest groups (FIG), and community groups in taking up project activities for value chain promotion, custom hiring centres, and production of climate resilient seed varieties;
- Develop linkages for post-harvest management and value chain of select commodities;
- Promote market linkages and sustainable climate resilient agriculture practices;
- Identify farmers/groups for capacity building, including training and exposure visits;
- Identifying and facilitating the opportunities for the livelihood fund for the landless and other vulnerable groups with a clear focus on women;
- Carry out documentation of project related agricultural activities at the village/cluster level in collaboration with the communities;
- Providing feedback on project development initiatives to the DPMU & PMU;
- Any other task assigned by the SDAO from time to time.