



## WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal)

Paribesh Bhawan

Bldg. No. 10A, Block – LA, Sector – III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata – 700 106

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Website: [www.wbpcb.gov.in](http://www.wbpcb.gov.in)

Memo No. *0702*-2024-IIW/1/C. Lab

Date: *15/03/2024*

### LETTER OF AWARD

To,

Dr. Soni Agrwal Associate Professor

IIM Nagpur, Plot No.1, Sector 20,

MIHAN (Non-SEZ), Nagpur,

Maharashtra- 441108

**Sub: Project on “ESG Excellence: A Comprehensive Study to Benchmarking Best Practices and Engaging Value Chain Partners”**

**Ref: Project Proposal submitted by Associate Prof. Dr. Soni Agrwal dated 22/12/2023**

Respected Madam,

With reference to above, this is to inform you that the West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) is pleased to accept your proposal and award the project work mentioned above under the following terms & conditions detailed below:

**1. Project Title: “ESG Excellence: A Comprehensive Study to Benchmarking Best Practices and Engaging Value Chain Partners”**

**2. Principal Investigator:** Dr. Soni Agrwal Associate Professor, IIM Nagpur, Department of Organizational Behaviour & Human Resource Management, 919968662530, Email: [soni@iimnagpur.ac.in](mailto:soni@iimnagpur.ac.in)

**3. Co-investigators:** Dr. Kaliyan Mathiyazhagan, Chairperson-Research Center, Associate Professor, Tghiagarajar School of Management, Madurai, Tamilnadu .

**4. Duration of the Project: 2 years**

**5. Co-Ordinating Officer of WBPCB:** Sri Anjan Fouzdar, Environmental Engineer WBPCB

**6. Study Matter:**

Environment, social, and governance (ESG) has emerged as a crucial measure for assessing the sustainable performance of organizations. Out of the seventeen SDGs, 3, 5, 6,7,8,10,11,12, 13 all are more aligned directly or indirectly with the broader objectives related to climate change and sustainability. Incorporating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into organizational operations can make significant contributions to the broader objective of sustainable

development while also yielding ethical and financial advantages. This also aligns the company's efforts on social responsibility and how it contributes to the communities it operates in. This could include initiatives like workforce diversity and inclusion programmes, labour practices or working on projects that benefit communities. Governance encompasses transparent and accountable decision-making processes, as well as promoting ethical behaviour and strong corporate governance practices.

By going beyond conventional financial metrics and considering ESG factors, businesses can operate in a more responsible and sustainable manner. Ethically, it demonstrates a commitment to responsible business practices, which can enhance reputation and stakeholder trust. From a financial perspective, businesses that prioritize ESG factors may experience improved long-term performance, reduced risks, increased access to capital, and better resilience in the face of evolving market dynamics.

An ESG framework based on the requirements of SEBI may play a crucial role in identifying, organizing, analysing, and prioritizing various beneficial aspects linked with them. The consideration of ESG factors allows companies in identifying and addressing risks that might otherwise go unnoticed. For example, environmental risks such as climate change impacts, resource scarcity, or regulatory changes can have substantial implications for businesses. By proactively assessing and managing these risks, companies can mitigate potential negative consequences and safeguard their operations.

Similarly, social risks such as labour practices, supply chain management, and community relations can also have a profound impact on a company's reputation and overall business performance. By incorporating ESG practices, companies can identify areas of improvement, address social concerns, and strengthen their relationships with stakeholders.

Moreover, effective governance practices are essential for ensuring ethical conduct, accountability, and transparency within organizations. Strong corporate governance structures can help prevent fraud, corruption, and conflicts of interest, thereby enhancing business integrity and reducing the risk of legal and reputational issues.

The SMEs of India can benefit from this process that can identify significant issues that may impact their businesses, and can lead to business benefits through the process of measurement, management and change.

Further, by comparing how much of this framework a business has been able to complete in the current year vis-à-vis the previous year, will help a company determine if it is on the path to leadership and whether the pace is in line with its ambition.

By integrating ESG considerations into decision-making processes, companies can not only mitigate risks, but also unlock various benefits. For instance, companies with strong ESG practices often gain increased access to capital as investors increasingly prioritize sustainable investments. Additionally, implementing of sustainable and efficient processes can lead to cost savings through resource optimization, waste reduction, and improved operational efficiency.

In summary, the ESG framework provides a comprehensive approach to decision-making process, enabling companies to proactively address risks, enhance their resilience, and capitalize on opportunities associated with sustainable and responsible business practices.

**7. Study Area:** For the present work company based in West Bengal and falling under Red Category Industry preferably will be identified for the study.

#### **8. Project Objectives:**

The present study will identify a company, whose performance is seen as effective on ESG parameters. The company can be modelled further as a preferred company for benchmarking purpose. Thus:

- Mapping the value chain upstream-downstream as per present required guidelines
- Comprehensively assess commitment on sustainability under the broad domain of Environment, Social and Governance by value chain partners
- Preparation of detailed check-list related to ESG compliances as per applicability
- Assessing the level of compliance at each level of value chain
- Analysing the considered standards applied
- Identify relevant challenges faced by value chain partners
- Assessing impact of ESG compliance on people, planet, profit

#### **9. Methodology:**

Identification of a West Bengal based manufacturing listed company, among top 1000 listed companies' list will be analysed to understand their practices related to ESG compliance covering value chain partners. Their compliance requirements from various regulatory bodies as well as global sustainability compliance requirement will be mapped with the present NGRBC's ESG requirements.

- Identification of best practices on existing compliances Vs. Required compliances
- Proposing practical and feasible solutions

- Helping value chain partners becoming more ESG compliant therefore having overall improved performance

**10. Submission of Reports:**

Final report in 3 (three) hard copies and 1 (one) soft copy after completion of project.

**11. Project Cost:**

- (a) The total project cost for 1(One) year = **INR 9,60,000** /- only (Rupees Nine lakh Sixty thousand only)
- (b) The project cost will be spent as per following schedule:

<b>Item</b>			
<b>Budget (In Rupees)</b>			
<b>A: Recurring:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year (50% of total amt in Rs.)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year (30% of total amt. in Rs)</b>	<b>(20% of total amt. in Rs.)</b>
1. Remunerations/Salaries (RF)	1,80,000	1,00,000	80000
2. Remunerations/Salaries (RA 08 months)	1,00,000	50,000	50000
3. External Agency	50,000	20,000	30000
4. Travel	50,000	50,000	00000
5. Institutional Overhead	50,000	50,000	00000
6. Contingency	50,000	18,000	32000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,80,000</b>	<b>2,88,000</b>	<b>1,92,000</b>
<b>Grand Total =</b>	<b>9,60,000</b>		

Total project cost will include all activities under the project as mentioned in this Letter of Award and submission of final reports as mentioned in Clause 10 above.

**12. Terms of Payments:**

Payments will be made through A/c Payee cheque(s) /NEFT/RTGS in favour of Indian Institute of Management Nagpur, Bank - CANARA BANK, Branch Name - MIHAN SEZ, Account Name: INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT NAGPUR, Account No: 3124101005686, Account Type - Savings Account, IFSC Code: CNRB0006410.

- (i) **1<sup>st</sup> year:** Rs. 4,80,000/- (50% of the total amount) as a 1<sup>st</sup> year advance of. may be paid after the acceptance of Letter of Award and claim bill in triplicate for the said amount duly confirmed by the Co-ordinating officer of WBPCB.
- (ii) **2<sup>nd</sup> year:** Rs. 2,88,000/- (30% of the total amount) may be released for 2<sup>nd</sup> year after receiving Interim Report and Certificate towards Utilisation of 1<sup>st</sup> year Instalment, and claim bill in triplicate for the said amount duly certified by the Co-ordinating officer of WBPCB.

The remaining Rs. 1,92,000 /-, 20% of the total amount may be released on submission of Final Report along with Certificate towards Utilisation of Fund duly certified and accepted by the Co-ordinating Officer of WBPCB.


**13. Termination:**

- (a) WBPCB shall have the right to change the scope of work including termination of the work as deemed fit in case of any breach of contract.
- (b) If at any time it is noticed that project is discontinued without prior intimation to the WBPCB, the project may be cancelled without showing any further reason.

**14. Other Terms & Conditions:**

- (a) In case of dispute, if any, decision of the Member Secretary of WBPCB shall be final and binding.
- (b) The data, information generated and the instruments/hardware developed/procured during the project period being the property of the State Board, its reproduction for publication or use after the project period in any form will require prior approval from WBPCB, otherwise WBPCB may take necessary action.
- (c) The State Board has no liability for any recruitment for this project work.

If you agree to the above terms and conditions, please return the duplicate copy of this order duly signed and sealed as a token of your acceptance and confirm us the date of commencement of this project and submit other documents as detailed above required for further processing.


  
- 15/03/2024  
(Dr. Ramkrishna Saha)  
Chief Scientist, WBPCB

**Memo No. 0702/- 2024-IIW/1/C.Lab**

**Date: 15/03/2024**

Copy forwarded to:

1. OSD (O&E)
2. Chief Engineer, (Planning & EIM)
3. Senior Personnel Manager
4. Finance & Accounts Manager
5. Sri Sri Anjan Fouzdar, Environmental Engineer WBPCB, ProJet Co-Ordinator
6. PA to Chairman
7. PA to Member Secretary

  
- 15/03/2024  
(Dr. Ramkrishna Saha)  
Chief Scientist, WBPCB

ISSUED

o/c

## **gouthamraj Phd. student full time scholar**

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**From:** gouthamraj Phd. student full time scholar  
**Sent:** 10 July 2024 11:57  
**To:** gouthamraj Phd. student full time scholar  
**Subject:** FW: Award Letter

**From:** Soni Agrawal <[so.agrawal@imi-k.edu.in](mailto:so.agrawal@imi-k.edu.in)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 8:05 PM  
**To:** Dr. K Mathiyazhagan <[kmathiyazhagan@tsm.ac.in](mailto:kmathiyazhagan@tsm.ac.in)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Award Letter

Fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **RP Division ICSSR** <[rpdivision@icssr.org](mailto:rpdivision@icssr.org)>  
**Date:** Fri, 22 Dec, 2023, 7:42 pm  
**Subject:** Award Letter  
**To:** <[so.agrawal@imi-k.edu.in](mailto:so.agrawal@imi-k.edu.in)>

File No.ICSSR/RPD/MN/2023-24/G/72

Dated: 22<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Subject: Award Letter for the Minor Research Projects - 2023-24.**

**Dear Dr. Soni Agrawal**

*"ICSSR extends warmest congratulations to you on successfully obtaining the award of Research Project as per the above Subject".*

With reference to your application with Expert Committee, regarding your project proposal for the minor *Research Projects*, the final selection is made on the basis of recommendations of the Expert Committee as follows:

Approved Title by the Expert Committee	<b>Identification of overlaps between existing Compliance requirements for Companies with Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting Requirements</b>
Budget Approved ₹	<b>Rs.904000/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Four Thousand Only)</b>
Approved Duration of the Project (Months)	<b>12 Months</b>

First Instalment (50% of the awarded grant)	<b>Rs.452000/-</b> <b>(Rupees Four Lacs Fifty Two Thousand Only)</b>
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Please note that this proposal is approved provisionally by the Competent Authority on the recommendations of the Expert Committee, and upon fulfillment of eligible criteria and other conditions, the Sanction Order along with detailed Budget in break-up will be issued after receipt of the below mentioned original documents:

- Undertaking (on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/-) (Sample copy attached)
- Declaration (on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/-) (Sample copy attached)
- Original forwarding Letter duly signed/stamped by statutory authority (Sample copy attached)
- Grant-in-aid bill (Pre-receipt) duly filled in for the first instalment (Sample copy attached), (The first instalment amount will 50% of the total awarded project grant)
- Photocopy of a letter / order / screenshot of your institution's website where your institution recognition by Central Govt. / State Govt. / UGC 12 B / 2 (f) status mentioned.
- Photocopy of Memorandum of Appointment / Appointment Order / Employment Letter / Proceedings copy of the Appointment in case of Applicants (Project Director / Co-PD) those who are working private institutions and other than Govt. Institutions.
- Photocopy of your Ph.D. Degree certificate

You are requested to send all the above mentioned original documents to the undersigned on or before 27.12.2023 to enable us to issue the formal Sanction Order as per the checklist enclosed.

You are once again required to review the eligibility criteria in the guidelines and ensure that you fulfill all requirements, both as an individual and as an institution. If you have been awarded a project under any other programme of ICSSR, and the Sanction Letter for that project has been issued, you are requested to proceed with the earlier sanction and inform us accordingly. In this situation, the current award will not be considered operational. If you have already been awarded a project, and the sanction letter has not been issued yet, you may choose between the two awards and clearly inform us which project you would like to proceed with.

All the Payments and Transfers are to be done through EAT module of Public Financial Management System (PFMS)/ RBI Account, hence the institution has to open a dedicated account as per the notification of ICSSR for those that have not yet done so.

([https://www.icssr.org/sites/default/files/important\\_notice/2019-PFMS-Notification.pdf](https://www.icssr.org/sites/default/files/important_notice/2019-PFMS-Notification.pdf)).

In case of any issues / problems in execution of PFMS/ RBI Account, you may go through the video tutorial at <https://www.icssr.org/sites/default/files/pfms.pdf>.

Those Institutions' Bank Account registered under PFMS/ RBI Account must ensure that your account is linked with ICSSR Scheme - 0877 at PFMS portal. Those who have already registered and have the dedicated account or may have multiple accounts must ensure to provide the exact one so that the confusion can be avoided and faster transaction can be done.

**You are requested to consider the Date of Commencement of the study from 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 onwards.**

Please note that title of this proposal has been approved by the Expert Committee(s) and any inquiries regarding these projects will be addressed only at the time of issuing the Sanction Order.

best wishes,

Dr. S N Chari

Deputy Director

In-charge | कार्यभारी

Research Projects Division| अनुसंधान परियोजना विभाग

Indian Council of Social Science Research| भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद्

(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) | शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, JNU Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110067.

Ph.: +91-11-26742351; 26716690; [chari@icssr.org](mailto:chari@icssr.org)

Tel. No. 91-11-26741849/50/51 (EPABX), Ext. 303; 290; 292; 297.

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