TERMS OF REFERENCE

Study on Migrating Youths for Livelihood Options

Background:

The main objective of the project, implemented by RCDC with support fro Misereor, Germany is to establish decentralized resource governance. This initiative empowers tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers across 40 villages in the Balangir and Rayagada districts to exercise community control over local resources, ensuring environmental conservation and food and livelihood security.

The current project, titled "Ensuring Sustainable Food and Livelihood Security of Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers through Customary and Ancestral Practices and Rights in the Districts of Balangir and Rayagada, Odisha," focuses on demonstrating and strengthening community-based food sovereignty. This is achieved through the promotion of traditional and local food baskets, as well as the implementation and replication of decentralized resource governance models.

A key priority is the promotion of organic farming rooted in community tradition and culture, which includes indigenous seed collection, propagation, and cultivation. This objective is designed to maintain the community's independence from external market pressures. The entire project follows a People-Led Development (PLD) approach, where community members serve as the primary agents of transformation. Consequently, the development agenda is entirely identified, designed, led, and implemented by the people themselves.

Purpose of the Process Documentation

The purpose of this assignment is to conduct a "Study of Migrating Youth for Livelihood Options".

Scope

The study will support RCDC and Misereor in the following areas:

- Strategic program planning.
- Livelihood program design and diversification.
- Development of safe migration and protection strategies.
- Capacity building for youth.
- Establishment of a monitoring and evaluation baseline.
- Policy advocacy and government convergence.

Geographic Focus

The study will be conducted in 28 villages within the Khaprakhol Block of Balangir district and 12 villages within the Chandrapur Block of Rayagada district, Odisha.

Methodology

1. Study Design

The study will adopt a mixed-methods research design:

- Quantitative Approach: Structured household surveys.
- Qualitative Approach: Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Case Studies.

2. Study Area

The study will cover a total of 40 villages:

- 28 villages in Khaprakhol Block, Balangir district.
- 12 villages in Chandrapur Block, Rayagada district.

3. Study Population

Target respondents include:

- Youth (15–35 years) who have migrated for livelihoods within the last 5 years.
- Returned migrants.
- Households with migrant youth.
- Community leaders and local officials.

4. Sampling Methodology

- Village Coverage: All 40 selected villages will be covered (28 in Khaprakhol and 12 in Chandrapur).
- Household Listing: A preliminary listing will identify households with migrant youth and the type of migration (seasonal, permanent, or interstate). Data will be sourced from Gram Panchayat records, MGNREGA registers, SHG networks, and community informants.
- Sample Size: Approximately 5–6 migrant youths per village will be sampled. If a village has fewer migrants, all available migrants will be included. The estimated total sample size is 200 respondents.
- Sampling Technique: Stratified random sampling based on gender, type of migration, and social category (SC/ST/OBC/General).

5. Data Collection Methods

- <u>Quantitative Survey:</u> A structured questionnaire will capture demographics, education, economic background, migration history, working conditions, remittances, skill acquisition, and livelihood aspirations.

- Qualitative Methods:
    - Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Two FGDs per block with migrants and their families covering migration causes, community perception, and risks.
    - Key Informant Interviews (KIIs): Interviews with Panchayat leaders, block officials, teachers, NGO representatives, and labor contractors.
    - Case Studies: 5–6 detailed life histories per block highlighting both successful and vulnerable migration experiences.

6. Duration of the Study

Sl. No.	Activity	Timeline
1	TOR Released	5th Mar 2026
2	Deadline for Expressions of Interest	10th Mar 2026
3	Shortlisting and Finalization of External Expert	12th Mar 2026
4	Signing of Contract and Induction Meeting	15th Mar 2026
5	Field Work Roll-out	30th Mar 2026
6	Submission of Draft Report	20th April 2026
7	Consultation and Feedback	22nd April 2026
8	Submission of Final Report	25th April 2026

Consultant Profile

The ideal candidate should possess:

- Considerable experience in documentation within agriculture, rural livelihoods, food security, and natural resource management.
- Broad familiarity with project cycle management and the logical framework approach.
- Extensive experience in the development sector within Odisha.
- The ability to produce reports consistent with the study's purpose and objectives.
- Proposal Requirements

Proposals must not exceed 5 pages (excluding CVs, budget, and work samples) and must include:

- A short overview of qualifications and experience (max 1 page).
- A description of the proposed methodology and approach.
- A detailed budget.
- Budget

The maximum available budget for this consultancy is INR 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Only). This amount is inclusive of travel, food, and accommodation.

Application Process

Applications should be emailed to **rcdcbbsr@gmail.com** or submitted in hard copy to the RCDC Head Office by **5:00 pm IST on or before Thursday, 10th March 2026**. The title of the study **"Migrating Youths for Livelihood Options"** needs to be clearly mentioned in the application.

***