

## 10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

The monitoring of this project will start right from its inception. The project will be regularly monitored by the Project Technical Team headed by the PI and the Project Steering Committee that will comprise of various stakeholders. The PI has a wealth of experience in dealing with core project outputs, indicators and activities in previous projects. This M&E plan will serve two functions: first, periodic assessment of project implementation and performance of activities (M&E of Project Performance), and second, evaluation of vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers in terms of its relevance, effectiveness and impact in increasing soil fertility and improving crop productivity (M&E of Project Impact). The M&E system will provide answers on the progress and impact made in achieving the project's outputs and outcomes.

- **Project Performance:** Performance evaluation, which is referred to as mid-term and final evaluation, will assess the project's success in achieving the outputs with the inputs provided and activities conducted. The project performance will be monitored on half-yearly basis and findings incorporated into the annual technical reports.
- **Project Impact:** Evaluation of the project's success in achieving its outcomes will be monitored continuously throughout the project. The impact of the project in respect of indicators and expected outcomes will be evaluated on quarterly basis through joint meetings with the project beneficiaries.

The project performance and impact will be monitored and evaluated using the following M&E Matrix / Log Frame:

Specific objective / Result chain	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Risks / Assumptions
1. To promote environmentally friendly fertilizer production and marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less pollution</li> <li>• Fertile soils</li> <li>• High crop yield</li> <li>• Better living standard due to better income status</li> <li>• Reduction in the rate of use of inorganic fertilizer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% increase in awareness of farmers using vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers</li> <li>• 25% improvement in soil fertility status by end of project</li> <li>• 25% increase in yield of crops grown by farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inception report</li> <li>• Number of target beneficiaries</li> <li>• Number of vermicomposting pits and sheds constructed</li> <li>• Photos of meeting events, vermicomposting pits and sheds, etc.</li> </ul>	The participants will have an interest in vermicomposting technology i.e., avail themselves for the trainings, and play their duly part during training and implementation of the project in order to make a lasting impact.
2. To improve the physical and biological properties of soils and their self-life through the application of vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity of earthworms collected.</li> <li>• Quantity of seeds procured.</li> <li>• Number of equipment procured.</li> <li>• Quantity of yield harvested from plots treated with vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% increase in soil health and fertility.</li> <li>• 25% increase in the activities of soil microorganisms.</li> <li>• Reduction in soil nutrient deficiency by 15% by end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of project implementation.</li> <li>• Yield of crops increased by 12.5%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil health and fertility status report.</li> <li>• Crop yield assessment report.</li> <li>• Microbial status of soils treated with vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers.</li> </ul>	The social-economic political and weather conditions will allow for the process of awareness, training and more importantly adoption and implementation of the ideas.
3. To build the capacity of target beneficiaries in the production,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved living standard of target beneficiaries</li> <li>• Increased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 farmers, 225 students, 5 junior lecturers and 20 extension staff trained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trainings conducted.</li> <li>• Number of participants attending trainings.</li> </ul>	ETU-SL will continue with its mandate without changing focus and

processing and marketing of vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers.	<p>awareness of the benefits of vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers in restoring soil fertility and improving crop production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hands-on demonstration of skills acquired from the training programme.</li> </ul>	<p>in vermicomposting technology by the end of project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 10% of trainees fully demonstrating lessons learnt by establishing vermicomposting enterprises end of project.</li> <li>• At least 50% of trainees serving as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) for other students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of training modules.</li> <li>• Photos and videos of training sessions.</li> <li>• Number of self-owned vermicomposting enterprises established by trainees.</li> <li>• Quantity of vermicompost and vermiwash fertilizers produced.</li> </ul>	its mission
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three M&amp;E activities completed with their reports available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First M&amp;E report to be completed by June 2024.</li> <li>• Second M&amp;E report by February 2025.</li> <li>• Final M&amp;E report by end of project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First quarter M&amp;E report.</li> <li>• Mid-term M&amp;E report.</li> <li>• Final report.</li> </ul>	Project implementation follows plan as indicated.