

Amendment in the Scheme Guidelines of Commercial Horticulture and Cold Storage Scheme of National Horticulture Board

B.Raja

Deputy Director. NHB, Bangalore, Karnataka

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The National Horticulture Board (NHB) was set up by the Government of India in 1984 as an Autonomous organization under the administrative control of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and registered as a society under Societies Registration Act with its headquarters at Gurugram. Presently, NHB has 29 field offices located all over the country. **The present Managing Director of NHB is Sh. Kapil Meena, IAS.**



The broad aims and objectives of the Board are to develop production clusters/hubs for integrated Hi-tech commercial horticulture, development of post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure, ensuring availability of quality planting material and to promote adoption of new technologies/tools/ techniques for Hi-tech commercial horticulture etc. In India, the market trends for cold Storage facility providers are witnessing significant growth and transformation. With the rise of e-commerce and the increasing demand for temperature-controlled storage and logistics solutions, companies in the cold storage industry are focusing on expanding their infrastructure and adopting advanced technologies. Additionally, there is a growing emphasis on integrating cold chain networks to ensure seamless transportation and storage of perishable goods across the country.

The following amendments in the Scheme Guidelines of the National Horticulture Board (NHB) for Commercial Horticulture and Cold Storage Schemes shall come into force with immediate effect from 21.08.2026.



The amendments have been introduced with the objectives of rationalising financial assistance, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits, preventing duplication of subsidy, and making implementation more transparent and effective.

1. Revised Definition of Family and Eligibility: For the purpose of determining eligibility under NHB Schemes, the term "family" shall comprise the applicant's spouse, father, mother, sons and daughters.

- Only one member of a family shall be eligible to avail financial assistance under NHB Schemes, whether individually or through HUF, partnership/proprietorship firm or as a Director of a Company, subject to the applicable provisions.
- Financial assistance availed by any member of a family shall be treated as financial assistance availed by the same family.
- Once financial assistance has been availed by any member of an applicant's family under any NHB Scheme/component, no further financial assistance shall be admissible to any other member of the same family under any NHB Scheme/component, irrespective of any unutilised portion of the maximum admissible ceiling.
- The restriction shall apply across all NHB Schemes/components and shall constitute the final entitlement of the family.
- Where financial assistance has already been availed by an FPO/FPC/Company, its members shall be eligible to avail assistance once in their individual capacity, subject to the revised definition of family.
- Applicants shall furnish the prescribed declaration regarding their eligibility and that of the family members covered under the definition of family, as per prescribed format of NHB.
- Suppression, misrepresentation or furnishing of incorrect information for obtaining financial assistance shall render the applicant liable for recovery of the assistance released along with applicable interest.

2. Categories Not Eligible for NHB Assistance: The following categories shall not be eligible for financial assistance under NHB Schemes:

1. Present holders of Constitutional Posts;
2. Present Ministers, Ministers of State, Members of Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha, and Members of State Legislative Assemblies/Councils, Mayors of Municipal Corporations and Chairpersons of District Panchayats;



3. Serving employees of Central/State Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies and Local Bodies, except MTS/Class-IV/Group-D employees;
4. Superannuated/retired pensioners receiving monthly pension of ₹10,000/- or more, excluding MTS/Class-IV/Group-D employees;
5. Group of Farmers: Family members of persons falling in the above categories may, however, avail one-time assistance, subject to the applicable provisions of the revised definition of family.

3. Revision in Rate of Financial Assistance: The rate of subsidy/financial assistance under various components has been revised. The revised rates include, inter alia: Component	General Area (%)	NER/Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas and specified UTs* (%)
Open Field Cultivation Projects	35%	45%
Protected Cultivation Projects, including plug-type nurseries under protected conditions	35%	45%
New Tissue Culture Units - Private Sector	35%	45%
Integrated Mushroom Units	35%	45%
Post-Harvest Management Components, including Secondary Primary/Processing	35%	45%
Cold Storage Projects	35%	45%

*As applicable under the respective Scheme Guidelines, including NER and Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The applicable ceiling of subsidy and other component-specific conditions shall remain as prescribed in the revised Scheme Guidelines.

4. Cold Storage Scheme: Under the revised provisions, NHB shall provide credit-linked back-ended subsidy at:

- 35% of the eligible project cost in General Areas; and
- 45% in NER and Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas, Vibrant Villages, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.



The maximum subsidy admissible from NHB for any type of cold storage project shall not exceed ₹2.00 crore.

5. Cost of Land: The cost of land shall not be considered as part of the eligible project cost under the revised provisions.

6. Voluntary Refund/Exit from Scheme: A beneficiary may, during the prescribed lock-in period, voluntarily opt out of the Scheme by refunding the entire subsidy amount along with applicable interest, if any, as prescribed under the Scheme or decided by the Competent Authority.

Upon acceptance of the refund by NHB and fulfilment of the prescribed conditions, the beneficiary shall be discharged from the obligations and restrictions arising from the subsidy assistance.

7. Revision in Cost of Application Form and Scheme Brochure: The cost of the application form and Scheme brochure has also been revised. The revised charges shall be applicable as per the following schedule:

Project Cost	Revised Cost (Rs)*
Up to ₹20 lakh	2,000
More than ₹20 lakh and up to ₹50 lakh	5,000
More than ₹50 lakh and up to ₹100 lakh	10,000
More than ₹100 lakh and up to ₹150 lakh	15,000
More than ₹150 lakh and up to ₹200 lakh	20,000
More than ₹200 lakh	50,000

*18% GST as applicable shall be extra.

The revised charges shall apply as prescribed in the amended Scheme Guidelines.

9. Applicability to Pending Cases

The amended provisions shall come into force with immediate effect. All ongoing/pending LoC/GoC applications and subsidy claims shall be dealt by NHB with on a case-to-case basis, guided by the letter and spirit of the amended provisions and the applicable directions of the Competent Authority of Board.

10. General

All applicants/beneficiaries are advised to carefully study the revised Scheme Guidelines before submitting applications or seeking financial assistance from NHB.

The detailed amended Scheme Guidelines may be referred to for component-wise



eligibility, admissible project cost, subsidy ceilings, documentation, declarations and other applicable conditions.

For more details please visit www.nhb.gov.in /contact

State Office:	Head Office:
The Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, No.14/43, 2nd Floor, 1 & 2 Stage Industrial Suburb, Tumkur Road, Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru-560 022, Tele/Fax 080-23371935, 23374149 E-mail : blrnhb@gmail.com	The Managing Director, National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt., of India, Plot no; 85, Sector- 18, Institutional Area, Gurugram, Haryana 122015 Tel. No: 0124-2342992, Email: md@nhb.gov.in and dmd.nhb@gov.in

By

B.RAJA, Deputy Director. NHB, Bangalore, Karnataka

