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Popular Article

Boosting the Horticulture Sector through Revised Scheme Guidelines of National Horticulture Board (NHB)

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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 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. NHB encourages the rise of projects under protected cover (polyhouse and net house) on project mode with its vision on development of hi-tech commercial horticulture in identified belts and make such areas vibrant with horticultural activity, which in turn will act as hubs for development of horticulture.

NHB has been vested with the implementation of two main schemes 1) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management of Horticulture Crops and 2) Capital Investment subsidy scheme for construction/expansion/ modernization of cold storage and storages for Horticulture Produce. The first scheme focuses on commercial horticulture development in open field conditions and in protected cover on project mode (Poly House and Net House) and integrated post-harvest management projects, whereas in second scheme capital investment subsidy is given for construction/expansion/ modernization of different types of cold storage and other storage structures for horticulture Produce. The details of the schemes offered by NHB is given below



Scheme No:-I Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management of Horticulture Crops

1.1 Commercial Horticulture Development in open field conditions on project mode

Activities: Open field conditions on project mode, including components viz planting material, plantation, irrigation, fertigation, mechanization, precision farming, Good Agriculture Practices, land development, store room and labour quarters etc., for projects covering area above 2.00 ha (5 Acres).

Pattern of assistance: Credit linked back-ended subsidy @ 40% of the total project cost limited to Rs 40.00 lakh per project in general areas.

Eligible Crops: Aonla, Almond, Apple, Apricot, Banana, Ber, Lime, Lemon, Mandarin, Sweet orange, Custard apple, Fig, Grapes, Guava, Kiwi, Mango, Papaya, Passion Fruit, Peach, Pear, Pineapple, Plum, Pomegranate, Sapota, Strawberry, Walnut, Jack fruit, Cashewnut, Coconut, Olive, Datepalm, Black pepper, Cardamom, Citronella, Geranium, Stevia, Palmarosa, Mint, Celery and Tamarind.

1.2 Commercial Horticulture Development in protected cover on project mode (Poly House and Net House)

Activities: Projects under protected cover on project mode including components viz planting material, plantation, irrigation, fertigation, mechanization, etc for projects having area over 4000 sq metre.

Crops eligible & maximum project cost per acre:

- a) Flowers: Anthurium (Rs 80 lakh), Orchids (Rs 80 lakh),, Rose (Rs 70 lakh),, Lilium (Rs 70 lakh),,, Chrysanthemum(Rs 70 lakh),,, Carnation (Rs 75 lakh),, and Gerbera (Rs 75 lakh)
- b) Vegetables: High value vegetables: Capsicum (Rs 55 lakh),,, Cucumber (Rs 55 lakh),,,, Tomato (Rs 55 lakh)

Pattern of assistance: Credit linked back-ended subsidy @ 50% of the total project cost limited to Rs 100.00 lakh per project as per admissible cost norms for green houses, shade net house, plastic tunnel, anti-bird /hail nets & cost of planting material etc.

1.3 Integrated Post Harvest Management projects

Activities: - Projects relating to pack House, ripening Chamber, refer van, Pre- cooling unit and Secondary processing unit etc.

Pattern of assistance: Credit linked back-ended subsidy @ 35% of the total project cost except Packhouse @50% of the total project cost.



Cost Norm:

Integrated pack house Rs 160 Lakh/unit with 18M X 22 M @ 35% subsidy
 Ripening Chamber- Rs 1.20 Lakh/MT @ 35% subsidy,
 Refer Van- Rs 80 Lakh @ 35% subsidy, Retail Outlets - Rs 15 Lakh/unit @ 35% subsidy,
 Pre- cooling unit - Rs 5 Lakh /MT @ 35% subsidy,
 Cold room- Rs 0.60 Lakh/ MT and maximum upto 30 MT @ 35% subsidy,
 Secondary Processing Unit- Rs 100 Lakh/unit @ 35% subsidy.
 Pack House Rs 4.80 Lakh/unit with 9MX6M @ 50% subsidy

Scheme No: -II Capital Investment subsidy scheme for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storage and storages for Horticulture Produce.

Components & Capacity: Credit linked projects relating to Cold Storages including Controlled Atmosphere (CA) and their modernization are eligible for assistance under this component and storage capacity above 5001 MT up to 20000 MT.

Pattern of Assistance: The assistance will be given as subsidy @ 35% of the capital cost of project in general areas.

Cost Norms:

S. No	Description	Cost Norms
1	<p>Cold storage units Type 1</p> <p>i) Cold Storage Type-I is defined as CS-1 with Construction in civil including PUF/PIR panels, Doors and Ante-rooms, Refrigeration Units, Electrical Installation, Administrative block, Safety/Fire Safety and Hazard control and basic mazzenine structure (For other component details please refer to NCCD guidelines)</p>	<p>NHB to take up projects with capacity above 5000 MT and upto 20,000 MT as per following rates: •</p> <p>@ Rs. 9120/MT for capacity between 5001 to 6500 MT.</p> <p>@ Rs. 8640/MT for capacity between 6501 to 8000 MT.</p> <p>@ Rs. 8160/MT for capacity between 8001 to 10,000 MT.</p> <p>@ Rs. 4080/MT for capacity between 10001 to 20000 MT</p>



2.	ii) Cold Storage Type-I is defined as CS-1 with Construction in combination of civil & PEB including PUF/PIR panels, Doors and Ante-rooms, Refrigeration Units, Electrical Installation, Administrative block, Safety/Fire Safety and Hazard control and basic mazzenine structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • @ Rs. 11400/MT for capacity between 5001 to 6500 MT. • • @ Rs. 10800/MT for capacity between 6501 to 8000 MT. • @ Rs. 10200/MT for capacity between 8001 to 10,000 MT. • @ Rs. 5100/MT for capacity between 10001 to 20,000 MT.
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Further more details please visit our website www.nhb.gov.in (Details please refer to NCCD guidelines)

Revision in the scheme guidelines of NHB, including its implementation design, documentation and sanctioning process

The scheme guidelines of NHB including its implementation design, documentation and sanctioning process etc. have further been reviewed and with the approval of competent authority, it has been decided to effect major changes w.e.f. 01.01.2023. NHB will do away with two stage system of IPA and GoC. Now IPA will not be needed for availing benefit under the Scheme of NHB and applicant will apply straightaway for Grant of Clearance (GoC) to NHB after sanction of term loan by bank. The term loan sanctioned within 3 months from the date of online GoC application to NHB shall be treated valid, however, disbursement of term loan and start of project will be allowed only after issuance of GoC by NHB. GoC will be valid for 3 months for getting disbursement of first instalment of term loan and start of project. Accordingly, the applications in NHB will be dealt in the following manner

1. IPA system will be discontinued from 15.03.2023 and thereafter NHB shall accept applications only for Grant of Clearance with required documents. IPA/GoC applications received prior to the same will be considered as per existing system.
2. The processing of GoC application will be completely digital, including examination and sanctioning. The platform will be augmented with the timeline monitoring systems, so that every step can be monitored as per the pre-set target timelines and alerts can be sent to the processing officer/applicant at regular intervals and escalation matrix can be put in place based on ageing analysis of pendency at officer level.
3. Before making a new GoC Application online on the Web-Portal of NHB, the applicant will have to register after Aadhar authentication through OTP verification. Applicant will



be given an option at NHB portal and in case loan for the proposed project is sanctioned under Agri-Infra Fund (AIF) Scheme, the entire loan data of the applicant will be captured as such from AIF portal through API and only remaining details would be required to be filled in by the applicant online and saved at NHB Portal to complete the GoC application of NHB. In case loan is not sanctioned under AIF, the complete application form will have to filled up by the applicant.

4. NHB has prescribed a new short template for DPR and Bank appraisal note (Annexure-I). The template is indicative, and applicant/bank must ensure that the components mentioned in the template are invariably included in DPR or appraisal note.
5. The applicant will have to submit following documents along with the application for grant of clearance: - a. Details Project Report (DPR) and the information suggested in the NHB's prescribed template will only be mandatory. b. Project Land Document along with non-encumbrance certificate c. Bank Sanction letter d. Bank Appraisal Note e. Undertaking (will be part of Application Form in the prescribed format)
6. After application is submitted, an email will be sent to the applicant along with a reply/confirmation link to the financing bank. Concerned bank need to confirm the authenticity of documents online. Based on the confirmation of documents, e.g. bank sanction letter, appraisal note and land documents etc., NHB will issue GoC.
7. Queries on GoC applications, if any, will be communicated to the applicant Bank automatically by system/email by the concerned division within 15 days from the date of receipt of hard copy of the application/documents/bank documents and get the reply from applicant/bank within 15 days and place the application to the approving authority for decision. GoC will be issued by NHB within a period of two months positively.
8. Subsidy claim documents will also be submitted by bank/applicant online.
9. Technical Data sheet for Cold Storages and Protected Structure will be a part of DPR and instead of their appraisal by National Centre for Cold Chain Development or any other agency, it will be mentioned in the GoC Letter that applicant will construct the cold storage/green house as per extant standards/ specifications prescribed by NHB. Similarly, Registration certificate/Deed in case of legal entity will be a part of DPR.
10. NHB shall be timely relying upon financing banks for the examination of project documents.

For more details, please visit www.nhb.gov.in

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