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Popular Article

Kisan Credit Card: Enabling Financial Access for Fish Farmers & Fishers

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Abstract

The fisheries sector is a vital component of India's economy, supporting millions of livelihoods and contributing significantly to national production. Access to timely and affordable institutional credit is essential for enhancing productivity and financial stability among fishers and fish farmers. This article provides a detailed overview of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme as extended to the fisheries and aquaculture sector in 2018–19. It outlines key features, credit provisions, eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and application procedures. The scheme offers flexible, subsidized credit for both production and investment needs. Increasing adoption reflects its importance in strengthening financial access and supporting sustainable fisheries development in India.

Keywords: Aquaculture, Kisan Credit Card, Awareness, fishers, fish farmers

Introduction

India ranks as the second-largest fish-producing country globally, contributing approximately 9.64% to the world's total fish production. The sector supports the livelihood of around 28 million people, including fishers and fish farmers, which is about 2.04% of the national population. The importance of providing structured credit access becomes vital for the improvement of fisheries output and productivity at par with the agriculture sector. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was launched by NABARD in 1998 to assist farmers with credit for agricultural activities. The KCC scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedures to the farmers. In the year 2018-19, the Government of India expanded the KCC scheme to fisheries & Aquaculture sector, aiming to provide timely credit support fish farmer's and fisher's working capital requirements through Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan. As of



29 July, 2025 reported by the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, there are 4,76,237 active KCC accounts in the fisheries sector with a total sanctioned amount of ₹ 3214.32 crores in all States/UTs (DoF, 2026). These numbers reflect the growing dependence and adoption of KCC by the fish farmers & fishers across India.

How does KCC help fish farmers/fishers?

- It provides short-term credit support of ₹ 5 lakhs (collateral-free loan limit up to ₹ 2 lakh) at a subsidized interest rate of 7% per annum for fisheries & aquaculture activities.
- An up-front interest subvention of 1.5% is provided to financial institutions by the Central Government. Fish farmers/Fishers who repay their loans promptly on time receive a 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive, effectively reducing the interest rate to 4% per annum.
- It ensures funds availability for aquaculture, fishing & post-harvest costs.
- It helps fish farmers/fishers bridge financial gaps until they sell their fish/fish products at competitive market rates.
- It offers financial support to meet essential household expenses, preventing dependency on informal lending sources.
- It assists in the maintenance of essential equipment and infrastructure.

What are the key features of KCC?

- The KCC scheme provides an ATM-enabled RuPay Card for convenient transactions.
- It requires only one-time documentation, simplifying the application process.
- Facility for Production Credit (Cash Credit): This facility provides financial support for various purposes, including fish culture, post-harvest expenses, produce marketing loans, household consumption needs of fishers, working capital for the maintenance of fishing assets, and activities allied to fisheries.
- Facility for Investment Credit (Term Loan): This facility addresses diverse investment needs beyond routine production expenses, aiming to enhance fish production and improve fish farm management. The loan can also be utilized for non-production purposes such as boat building, the purchase of fish farm equipment, and other long-term investments related to fisheries.

Who & What are eligible for KCC?

Fishers, fish farmers (Individual & groups, partners, sharecroppers and tenant farmers), Self Help Groups, Cooperatives, Joint Liability Groups and Woman groups are



eligible beneficiaries for KCC. The applicant must be of 18 years to avail KCC. The applicants aged above 60 to 75 years need to have a co-borrower of below 60 years. Beneficiaries should own or lease aquaculture/fishing related assets such as ponds, tanks, open water bodies, raceways, hatcheries, rearing units, boats, registered fishing vessels, gears, nets, etc. as applicable.

What are the documents required for getting KCC?

- ✓ Duly filled application form.
- ✓ Self-attested copy of any identity proof- Voter's ID Card/Driving Licence/PAN Card/Aadhar Card/Passport/Photo IDs issued by Government Authority, etc.
- ✓ Self-attested copy of residence proof- Recent telephone bill/electricity bill/property tax receipt (not older than 2 months)/Voter's ID Card/Aadhar Card/Passport/Certificate issued by Government Authority/Local Panchayat/Municipalities, etc.
- ✓ Applicant's recent passport size photograph with signature (2 copies)
- ✓ Loan mortgage documents for loan limits of ₹ 3-5 lakhs, if applicable.
- ✓ Land records - 7/12 and 8-A extract, if applicable.
- ✓ Authorization/permission certificate/licence for engaging in aquaculture & fisheries activities from Government bodies, if applicable.

How to Get KCC?

- Online/Offline visit of any bank implementing KCC (Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Commercial Banks, Small Finance Banks, Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Rural Cooperative Banks, State Cooperative Banks and District Cooperative Banks).
- Get & fill the KCC application form
- Submit the filled application form along with the necessary documents to the bank/nearest DoF office, as applicable.
- The bank/DoF verifies the application, certifies and intimate applicant about the status within 3- 4 working days.
- Once approved, the applicant gets KCC by the post within 15-20 working days.

What kind of cards are issued with withdrawal limits?

Beneficiaries will be issued biometric Smart or Debit Cards compatible with ATMs, micro-ATMs and swipe machines (mostly RuPay Cards). If banks want to utilize the centralized biometric authentication infrastructure of the UIDAI (Aadhaar authentication),



then debit cards with magnetic stripe and PIN with biometric authentication of UIDAI can be provided. The daily ATM/POS limit is entirely bank-specific and typically ranges from ₹10,000-40,000. For example, SBI RuPay Kisan Debit Card holders can withdraw up to ₹15,000 per day from any ATM, with a daily Point of Sale (POS) limit of ₹75,000 at merchant establishments, subject to the available account balance.

When & how to repay the credit availed through KCC?

The repayment period may be fixed by banks as per the anticipated harvesting and marketing period for the fish culture/fishing or related activities for which the loan has been granted. The term loan component will be normally repayable within a period of 5 years depending on the type of activity/investment as per the existing guidelines applicable for investment credit. Banks may provide longer repayment period for term loans depending on the type of investment.

Conclusion:

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme includes both cash credit and term loans for working capital and long-term investments, issued through RuPay-enabled debit cards. The simplified documentation and flexible repayment tied to harvest cycles make it highly accessible. KCC is a game-changer for the fisheries sector, enabling economic stability, reducing reliance on informal credit, and fostering inclusive growth. With effective implementation, it can become a cornerstone for sustainable fisheries & aquaculture development in India.

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