

NABARD CONSULTANCY SERVICES

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The Website of Nabcons launched by Mrs. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson, NABARD.



Inaugural issue of 'Suvikalpa' being released at the hands of Mrs. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson & Shri. YSP Thorat, MD, NABARD.

Doubling of Agricultural Credit

In order to enhance flow of credit to agriculture, Hon'ble Finance Minister, in the Union Budget 2004-05, has announced a programme for doubling agricultural credit over the next three years. To achieve this target, credit plans for each of the next 3 years have to achieve a 30% growth rate. Accordingly, the ground level credit for agriculture during 2004-05 has been projected at Rs.1,05,000 crore.

Agency wise Target for 2004-05

(Rs Cr.)

Agency	Disbursements 2003-04	Target 2004-05
CBs	43840	57000
Coop	30080	39000
RRBs	6080	8500
Total	80000	104500

Note: Rs. 500 Cr. for other minor agencies

It is expected that enhanced credit flow would provide the required thrust to agriculture sector. NABARD, in consultation with GoI, RBI, IBA and

banks, have initiated steps to ensure that the target is achieved in a systematic manner. NABCONS is also contributing to this effort through identification/preparation of detailed project reports and helping the banks in techno-economic appraisal of agricultural projects.

Steps taken by NABARD

- National level consultation with Commercial Banks, Private Sector Banks, Cooperative Banks, RRBs to finalise the strategy
- Organisation of special State Level Bankers Meetings in various states to work out state wise targets and strategy
- Issued guidelines for restructuring/ rescheduling of debt by Cooperatives and RRBs
- Fixation of realistic scales of finance
- Preparation and distribution of project profiles for guidance of banks
- MIS for monitoring the progress

Wisdom beyond business.

Mile Stone Achieved

NABCONS has crossed a land mark of contracting more than 100 assignments. At the end of Sept. 2004, it had contracted 132 assignments from a wide range of domestic and international clients.

Progress upto Sept. 2004

Assignments	No.	Fee (Rs.Lakh)
Total	132	1361.11
Completed	76	223.49
Ongoing	56	1137.62

Types of Assignments

Type	No.	Fee (Amt. Lakh)
Project Preparation	42	187.88
Project Appraisal	25	35.10
Feasibility Studies	18	41.75
Turnaround Strategies	02	5.50
Financial Mgmt. & Debt Restructuring	09	24.41
Monitoring & Evaluation Studies	20	1001.15
Exposure Visits	16	65.33

NABCONS goes web way

Mrs. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson, NABARD, launched the web site of NABCONS, www.nabcons.com on 12 July, the foundation day of NABARD at its head office in Mumbai. Web site has been designed to facilitate the clients and users to seek necessary information about the products and services offered by NABCONS. A hot link has also been provided to view the web site of NABARD (www.nabard.org) and vice versa. Suvikalpa has been put on the web for easy access and is expected to enhance its outreach. A good number of hits have been received on the web site that is indicative of need of such services. NABCONS would be grateful to the users for their feedback on its web site to make it more user friendly.

Jatropha - Bio-fuel of future

Fossil fuel resources are exhausting fast. Spiraling cost of petrol and diesel have serious economic implications. Such scenario has compelled exploration of alternate sources of fuels. Besides being renewable, the potential for using plant sources as fuel is tremendous. Bio-diesel can be produced by a process called esterification from vegetable oils and fats. Various low value vegetable oils, not suitable for human consumption, can be used for this purpose. Non-edible oils like Jatropha, Pongamia, Argemone, Mohua, Castor, Salvadora, etc., can be used for the production of bio-diesel. However, Jatropha has tremendous potential in the country.

Jatropha curcas commonly known as "Rattan Jyot" is a bushy plant belonging to Castor family, grows about 3 to 5 m high. It is a tropical species that thrives well in hot climatic conditions. It is a cross-pollinated crop and yield starts in the 2nd year. Productivity stabilizes in 7-8 years. Economic life can be up to 40 years, if cultured and maintained well. It is generally propagated by seeds, but can also be propagated vegetatively from cuttings. If irrigation is given, flowering continues throughout the year and the matured fruits have to be harvested number of times.

Why Jatropha?

- Plant is a small bush, grows fast and starts yielding from 2nd year itself.
- Highly adaptable to various agro climatic conditions. Can thrive well even in adverse soil conditions, hot and dry ecosystem.
- Wastelands with gravel/stones, undulated lands can also be utilized.
- Can be profitable in sub marginal dry lands.
- Not browsed by cattle.
- Oil can be extracted easily from the seeds by expellers.

If the soil is suitable, it has potential to yield up to 2 to 5 kg seed per plant once fully grown i.e. it can give yield levels from 2 to 5 tones per ha per year. Oil content varies depending upon the seed filling, maturity, etc., with an average content around 30%. Current market price of the seed is around Rs. 5 per kg.

Jatropha - "Rattan Jyot" of India

- One hectare of wasteland can provide sufficient bio-fuel to run an office goer's car for one year.
- India has about 35 million hectare of wasteland that can be put to productive use.
- Bio-fuel from Jatropha would cost almost half the price of hydrocarbon fuel.
- Bio-Fuel does not add to CO₂/CO in the atmosphere.
- It's no wonder to call it Rattan Jyot of India.

.....thus spoke the Prime Minister

"We will work to replace the use of diesel in agricultural pumpsets and tractors by bio-fuels"

.....Dr. Manmohan Singh on Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas on 20 August 2004

Support from Government

In order to promote cultivation of Jatropha on large scale, National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVODB) has announced a scheme under which 30% subsidy, subject to a ceiling of Rs.6.5 lakh per grower, is available for cultivation of Jatropha. Scheme also has provision for similar subsidy for setting up of oil extraction unit from Jatropha seeds.

NABCONS has prepared detailed project reports on Jatropha cultivation. We have capabilities for project formulation and appraisal for bio-fuels throughout the country.

NABCONS assists Gol

NABCONS was awarded a prestigious assignment to evaluate "National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)", which was launched by Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, during 9th Plan period with 100% grant in assistance to all the State Governments with a budget of Rs. 402 crore. NABCONS made detailed evaluation of the implementation of the project in 4 states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal and the findings were presented to the officials of the concerned Department. Appreciating the quality work done by NABCONS, the Department further approached NABCONS to evaluate the performance in eight more states viz., Chhatisgarh, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The observations / recommendations made in the Report would assist Gol in taking suitable corrective measures and fine tuning of policy.

Kudos

Tamil Nadu RO

All the detailed project reports (DPR) prepared by Tamilnadu office of NABCONS have been financed by the banks. These reports have lead to a flow of bank finance to the tune of Rs. 6.49 crore and the best part is that all the projects were on organic farming. Banks have been requesting NABCONS for advising the entrepreneurs to approach them for financing such projects.

Jharkhand RO

NABCONS has been appointed as official consultant to the Government of Jharkhand. This decision has been taken to speed up the process of planning and development of the state through fruitful utilisation of funds that could not be utilised due to lack of good projects.

Roz Khao Ande

Maharashtra Regional Office has completed an assignment for M/s Nathani Poultry Pvt. Ltd., which involved techno-economic feasibility study for establishing a commercial layer farm with a capacity of about 50,000 birds under 1+1+1 system in Pune district. Based on the report, the bank (Bank of Baroda, Specialised Agriculture Branch, Pune) has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1.25 crore to the company.

Thank "You". We feel encouraged!

Encouraging responses have been received from the readers of the inaugural issue of 'Suvikalpa'. NABCONS expresses gratitude to all the readers for their suggestions and views. Excerpts from some of the feedback received are reproduced below:

"We appreciate your efforts for bringing out the Inaugural Issue of Quarterly Bulletin Suvikalpa"

Reserve Bank of India, Jaipur

"With the nation fully geared up for achieving a substantial increase in our Agricultural Productivity, certainly, such bulletins help updation and dissemination of information to everyone involved in the development of rural areas. My best wishes to you and your colleagues to continue the good work"

CMD, Indian Bank.

Visit of delegation from VBARD

A delegation of 10 senior officials from Vietnam Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (VBARD), Vietnam, visited India from 19 to 30 June 2004. The visit was designed and

organised by NABCONS. During their visit, delegation members studied the banking system in India with focus on subjects like agricultural and rural lending, project appraisal, risk management, use of IT in banking, human resource development, etc. Delegation, besides Mumbai, also visited Bangalore and New Delhi.

....."The study visit to India is the best one in terms of quality of lectures, reading materials and other arrangements.Excerpts from the feedback received from VBARD"

Head Office, Mumbai

S. M. Sheokand,
Chief Executive Officer
Phone : +91 22 2653 0037
Mobile : 98213 17748

Dr. E. V. Naidu,
General Manager
Phone : +91 22 2653 0034
Mobile : 98701 01933

D. C. Sharma,
Deputy General Manager
Phone : +91 22 2653 9386
Mobile : 98701 01931

M. K. Mudgal,
Deputy General Manager
Phone : +91 22 2653 0040
Mobile : 98701 01930

S. Venkatesh,
Assistant General Manager
Phone : +91 22 2653 9395
Mobile : 98207 01972

P. K. Maheshwari
Manager
Phone : +91 22 2653 9396
Mobile : 9892514703

Fax : +91 22 2652 0199
e-mail : nabcons@vsnl.net
Web site : www.nabcons.com

Editor and Publisher : S M Sheokand, Chief Executive Officer

NABARD Consultancy Services

Plot No. C-24, 'G' Block, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), MUMBAI-400 051.

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