

NABARD CONSULTANCY SERVICES

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NABCONS MoU with Punjab National Bank

An important event in the history of NABCONS took place on 28 April 2005 when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Mr. Y S P Thorat, Managing Director, NABARD & Chairman, NABCONS and Mr. S S Kohli, CMD, Punjab National Bank. Mrs. Ranjana Kumar, Chairperson, NABARD presided over the function. She mentioned that this was only a beginning and some more such agreements with other commercial banks can be inked in the near future. These types of arrangements would enhance the credit flow to new agriculture projects, which would lead to capital formation, employment and income generation. Mr. Thorat, while signing the MoU said that such an arrangement would provide opportunity for synergy between NABCONS and PNB. Similarly Mr Kohli, CMD, PNB was of the view that PNB with the expertise of NABCONS would be able to provide quality services to agricultural sector in the country.

NABCONS welcomes its Chairman



It is a matter of great pleasure to report that Mr. Y.S.P.Thorat, Managing Director, NABARD has been appointed as the first Chairman of NABCONS. Further, with a view to having experienced professionals, the Board of NABCONS has been restructured to include bankers, academicians and corporate executives.

Board of Directors

Mr. M. Balachandran, Executive Director, Bank of India

Dr. V.B. Jugale, Dean, Social Science Faculty, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra

Mr. P.H. Ravikumar, CEO, NCDEX, Mumbai

Dr. R. Balakrishnan, Executive Director, NABARD

Mr. S.M. Sheokand, Chief Executive Officer, NABCONS

NABCONS staff welcomes the Chairman and all Directors appointed on the Board of the Company.

New Scheme for Agricultural Marketing

In order to improve the existing regulated agricultural marketing and also to widen the marketing network, Government of India have recently launched a subsidy scheme viz., “**Scheme for Development / Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization**”. The scheme is reform linked and is applicable in those States / Union Territories which amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, to permit setting up of agricultural markets in private and cooperative sectors and allow direct marketing and contract farming.

Components of the Scheme

Credit linked back ended subsidy shall be provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific agricultural marketing infrastructure and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets, wholesale or retail in rural / municipal areas. 'Marketing infrastructure' encompasses :

(a) Functional infrastructure for collection/ assembling, drying, cleaning, grading, standardization, SPS (Sanitary & Phytosanitary) measures and quality certification, labeling, packaging, ripening chambers, retailing and wholesaling, value addition facilities (without changing the product form), etc.

(b) Market user common facilities in the project areas, like shops/offices, platforms for loading/unloading/assembling and auctioning of the produce, parking sheds, internal roads, garbage disposal arrangements, boundary walls, drinking water, sanitation arrangements, weighing & mechanical handling equipments, etc.;

(c) Infrastructure for direct marketing of agricultural commodities from producers to consumers/processing units/ bulk buyers, for supply of production inputs and need-based services to the farmers, equipment, hardware, gadgets, etc., for E-trading, market intelligence, extension and market oriented production planning; and Mobile infrastructure for post-harvest operations (excluding transport equipment) will be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

Eligibility

The assistance will be available to individuals, Group of farmers / growers / consumers, Partnership / Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Companies, Corporations, Cooperatives, Cooperative Marketing Federations, Local Bodies, Agricultural Produce Market Committees & Marketing Boards in the entire country. Bank assisted projects of State agencies, including projects refinanced/co-financed by NABARD would also be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

The projects that are sanctioned by the financing banks on or after 20 October 2004 shall be eligible for subsidy and the scheme will continue up to 2006-07.

Subsidy is available @ 25% of the capital cost of the project with an upper ceiling of Rs.50.00 lakh. In North Eastern States, Hilly and Tribal Areas and for entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Scheduled Tribe (ST) and their cooperatives, it would be 33.33% subject to ceiling of Rs.60.00 lakh. No upper ceiling for infrastructure projects of State Agencies.

Project Preparation

NABCONS has considerable expertise in post-harvest technology, rural infrastructure and marketing infrastructure for products from agriculture and allied areas. It offers consultancy for potential surveys, preparation of techno-economic feasibility studies, detailed project preparation and appraisal of projects both for the technological as well as financial aspects of the components envisaged in the new scheme.

NABCONS in North - Eastern States

Services of NABCONS have been sought by the State Government of Manipur for preparing a detailed project report for setting up of "Food Park" in the State.

Similarly, the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has availed the services of NABCONS for the preparation of a detailed project report for setting up of cold storages, rice mills, oil expellers, fruit processing, ginger processing, storage godowns, meat processing plants, market yards, maize processing plant, etc., throughout the state.

The infrastructure facilities so created would help in processing the agricultural produce from North-Eastern Region and stabilizing the prices of agri-produce, besides ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers. NABCONS, through these assignments is supplementing the efforts of NABARD in the development of the region.

Agriculture in Union Budget 2005

Targets fixed in previous budget for loan disbursements to agriculture and promotion of Self Help Groups were fully achieved.

New business plan 'Bharat Nirman', for building infrastructure in rural India.

Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a road map for agriculture diversification.

National Horticulture Mission to get an allocation of Rs 630 crore for 2005–06.

To introduce a programme for massive re-plantation in plantation sector.

Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro-irrigation

RBI to look into the use of agencies like village knowledge centers, rural kiosks etc for credit delivery.

Government to join 'Mission 2007' with a goal to set up a knowledge center in every village by 60th anniversary of independence day.

Banks to increase credit flow to agriculture by another 30 % in 2005-06

To accept in principle the recommendations of the Task Force on Co-operatives

National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) to be continued in its present form during 2005-06

'Micro Finance Development Fund' to be re-designated as 'Micro Finance Development & Equity Fund' with an increased corpus of Rs.200 crore

Loans for revitalization of sugar industries at 2% below bank rate, NABARD and IBA to re-negotiate the rate of Interest on past high interest loans.

Progress of Assignments

(upto 31.3.2005)

Assignments	No.	Fee (Rs.Lakh)
Total	171	1531
Completed	110	296
Ongoing	61	1235

Types of Assignments

(upto 31.3.2005)

Type	No.	Fee (Rs. Lakh)
Project Preparation	59	258
Project Appraisal	28	37
Feasibility Studies	23	53
Turnaround Strategies & Financial Mgt.	02	6
Debt Restructuring	10	28
Monitoring & Evaluation Studies	27	1058
Exposure Studies	22	91
TOTAL	171	1531

Poor man's cow - Sheep and Goat

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, has awarded the work of evaluation of 'National Ram/Buck Production Programme' implemented in various states to Nabcons. The assignment also envisages preparation of Detailed Project Report for development of small ruminants and rabbit in the country.

NABCONS builds "SETU" to Sri Lanka

Finding the earlier exposure visit useful in their day to day function and helpful in developing new products, a delegation of 93 officers representing six Regional Development Banks (RDBs) in Sri Lanka participated in a study tour to India in three batches during February – March 2005. The study visit was designed and organised by NABCONS at its Bangalore Regional Office. During their visit, the delegation members studied the banking system in India with focus on subjects like agricultural and rural lending, micro credit, project appraisal, resource / deposit mobilization, monitoring and supervision of projects, management of NPA, customer service, human resource development, etc. The delegation had interaction with Self Help Groups, VVV clubs, etc.

Kudos

Shri D. K. Kapila, District Development Manager(DDM), Rupnagar, Punjab has put in a lot of efforts for marketing the services of NABCONS in the region. As a result of it, Mohali Industries Association has identified and recognized NABCONS as one of the important consultancy service providers. NABCONS appreciates such efforts of DDMs and officers of NABARD /NABCONS who are promoting the activities of NABCONS throughout the country.

NABCONS Forges Overseas Links

NABCONS is on its way to spread its wings overseas. Many countries in African and Asian regions have been evincing interest in availing of our services. A team comprising of representatives from Kenya and Mauritius of DCDM, an international consultancy organisation, held detailed business discussions with NABCONS on 28 Feb 2005. Efforts are on to have formal institutional arrangements with DCDM and similar organizations in other countries too.

Our Services

Detailed project formulation, appraisal
Feasibility studies and potential surveys
Restructuring of developmental Institutions
Monitoring and evaluation of projects
International visitors programme
Capacity building and HR development

Area of Expertise

Minor Irrigation
Horticulture & Floriculture
Animal Husbandry, Poultry & Dairying
Fisheries
Land Development, Watershed
Forestry, Wasteland development
Agricultural Engineering
Agro-processing, Bio-technology
Cold storage, Rural Godowns
Rural Infrastructure
Small enterprises
Micro Finance, Poverty reduction
Tribal and Women Empowerment
Capacity building and international visitors programme

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