

**राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति , पश्चिम बंगाल : STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE , WEST BENGAL**

E-mail: slbc.westbengal@pnb.co.in

United Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

Telephone: 033-2262-7365, 033-2231-1716

11, Hemanta Basu Sarani, Kolkata- 700 001

Ref. No: SLBC/WB/Sub Committee Meeting of Agriculture / 471 /2024

Date: 03/07/2024

- 1) The Member Banks under SLBC, West Bengal & all DCCBs
- 2) Line Departments, GoWB
- 3) LDMS & DDMS

**Reg: Minutes of the SLBC Sub-Committee meeting on Agriculture held on 02.07.2024**

The meeting of SLBC Sub-Committee on Agriculture was held on 02.07.2024 at 03:30 PM at Nabanna, 3rd floor Conference Hall (Room No. 310) and also through VC with all DDMS, LDMS, DDAs and DCCBs, to review the performance in Agriculture Sector as on 31.03.2024. The meeting was chaired by Shri Onkar Singh Meena, Hon'ble Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt. of West Bengal, and participated by Shri Vivek Kumar, Joint Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt. of West Bengal, Shri Manas Dhar, Director & Special Secretary, Institutional Finance, Govt. of West Bengal, Shri Dharmendra Beuria, DGM, NABARD, Shri Debajyoti Datta, AGM, RBI, and representatives of major member banks & other officials.

At the outset, Shri Onkar Singh Meena welcomed all the participants in the meeting and briefly narrated the salient points of the agenda of the meeting. The agenda wise discussion and the action points emerged thereof are appended below:

Shri O. S. Meena apprised the overall performance of the member banks and also added that to achieve the ACP target for the FY 2024-25, the member banks have to adopt a strategy by giving special focus on KCC. He expressed his deep concern over the decline in agriculture portfolio both amount and account wise. As on 31.03.2024, all member banks have cumulatively disbursed Rs. 71,900.22 cr. in agriculture, achieving 67.20% of the ACP target of Rs.1,06,996.44 cr, out of that, total disbursement under Farm Credit stands at Rs. 51,288.41 cr. (71.33% of total agriculture disbursement).

He also expressed his displeasure over the drastic decline in achievement under KCC amount and account wise. As reported, there were around 45 lacs number of KCCs around 2 years back whereas total number of KCCs stood around 39 lacs as on 31-03-2024.

As on 31.03.2024, the member banks have disbursed 24.92 lakh number of KCCs (Fresh + Renewal) amounting to Rs. 11,508.81 cr. whereas, as on 31.03.2023, the member banks had disbursed 27.29 lakh number of KCCs (Fresh + Renewal) amounting to Rs.13,212 cr. As on 31.03.2024, the total number of KCC stands at 39.04 lakh having outstanding balance of Rs. 20,243.55 cr., whereas, as on 31.03.2023, the total number of KCC stood at 43.31 lakh having outstanding balance of Rs. 21,345.28 cr. He also analysed the bank wise average ticket size of total credit disbursement under Agriculture Sector. For example, two banks i.e. Bandhan Bank reported Rs 17.52 lacs average ticket size and that of IDFC First Bank was Rs 11.28 lacs average ticket size. It seems very high. He also appreciated the West Bengal State Cooperative bank for improving their average ticket size than earlier. He advised the member bank to follow the scale of finance meticulously during sanctioning of KCC.



Shri O. S. Meena advised the following points for urgent attention and compliance:

1. All member banks to study the agricultural portfolio thoroughly at micro level (at least 5 Agri lending branches) to find out the reason of such drastic reduction in the portfolio and also to make a strategy to improve those figures and to inform SLBC about it.
2. There are around 92 lakh agricultural land holders in the state as per the latest agriculture census whereas active KCC holders are only 39 lakhs; implying that there exists a huge scope for KCC for the banks. He requested the member banks to work on that.
3. All member banks to identify the branches which had performed below par and to give internal target for agriculture credit to those identified branches.
4. All the LDMs in coordination with DMs, DDAs and DDMs to organise regular, periodic & effective BLBC & DCC, to review agriculture lending and to adopt suitable measures to improve the agricultural figure in their respective areas.
5. As the September Quarter is the potato sowing time, special focus to be given to provide KCC to Potato growing farmers which would help in achieving of 50% of ACP target of FY 2024-25 by 30.09.2024.
6. All member banks to dispose of all pending proposals under AIF scheme within a time bound manner & updating the same in the designated portal and also requested to give special attention to those proposals pending for more than 60 days in the portal and dispose the same immediately. He appreciated member banks for the progress in AIF.

Shri Shio Shankar Singh, General Manager, SLBC West Bengal noted the instructions and requested member banks to ensure meticulous compliance in this regard. In addition to these he also mentioned some instructions for the member banks to achieve the target of agriculture for the FY 2024-25 which are as under:

- i) Each major bank to survey 5 rural branches to understand the bottleneck, if any, for increase of Agri portfolio.
- ii) 20% of rural branches to be kept under close monitoring to improve agricultural lending.
- iii) One day in a week to be observed as KCC day to boost Agri lending.
- iv) Line department to distribute loan application to all banks proportionately.
- v) To encourage integration Farming along with use of latest technology.
- vi) To promote FPO lending models where farmers form groups to collectively take loans, reducing the risk for lenders and encouraging peer support.
- vii) To gather feedback from farmers to continuously improve products and services.
- viii) Communication to all branch heads / credit officers to be done at regular intervals so that they remain convergent with all Agricultural Loan Schemes for more effective day-to-day interaction with customers.
- ix) Leaflet & pamphlets regarding various agricultural schemes in local language must be available in branch premises as well as to be distributed in different public places.
- x) To identify key agricultural areas and types of farming (e.g., crop farming, livestock, fisheries) that have potential for growth and development.
- xi) To arrange awareness programme on various agricultural scheme for the branch Manager through VC by the individual member banks.



Shri Manas Dhar, Special Secretary & Director, Institutional Finance, Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal, expressed his concern over the drastic decrease in the number of KCC holders from 45 lacs to 39 lacs in a span of around 2 years. A close scrutiny is urgently required in this regard.

He, further, expressed his concern about the average ticket size of the KCC. He apprised that banks were providing the seasonal KCC limit whereas the KCC should have 5-years combined limit, covering 2 seasons/crops per year, imbedded with yearly 10% increment of the previous year sanction limit, in line with RBI Master Circular on KCC.

He advised member banks to scrutinize the scale of finance followed in KCC loan and to comply the prescribed guidelines of RBI in this regard. He also advised member banks to focus on KCC renewal. He requested SLBC, LDMs, DCOs and the Block level convenors to sensitize and ensure that the stipulation of RBI guidelines in this regard could be scrupulously followed. Shri Dhar requested that DCOs, LDMs to form a team at district level and to visit the branches to ensure (1) proper scale of finance of Agri loans, (2) whether the KCC limit was given as per RBI stipulation, and (3) whether the farmers were forced to pay the seasonal loan before moving into the second season.

He suggested to utilize the services of BC Network, as an extended arms of the bank branches, for regularizing the irregular KCC, renewals of KCC and activation of dormant KCC account. He stressed that timely disbursement of KCC was very important keeping in view the limited sowing window of crops.

He instructed all the members to recheck the sector code of their loan portfolio to ensure the proper classification. In this context he also mentioned that as per RBI guidelines the loan given for post-harvest activities, food processing, rice mill, cold storage must be classified as priority sector, agriculture upto the limit of Rs.100Cr. He requested member banks to maintain village wise KCC register at all branches with periodic updation of the same. Shri Dhar requested SLBC to follow thoroughly the action points emerged from the BLBC/DCC meeting.

**(Action Point 1: SLBC, Member Banks & LDMs)**

Shri O.S. Meena also expressed his concern about the pendency of large number of KCC renewal. He advised member banks to focus on KCC renewal and to maximize the disbursement figure simultaneously to achieve ACP. In this regards Sri Sidhartha S Dash, GM, SBI informed that SBI had deputed 571 number of officials at field level only for regularization KCC loan by direct contact with the farmers. Further Ms Parayani Soren, CM, PNB informed that PNB had already a system generated SMS services where the farmers would get SMS for renewal of KCC in advance i.e. before expiry of KCC limit.

Further Shri O.S. Meena requested NABARD to revisit its basis of credit projection under Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) based on which SLBC & LDMs eventually set bank wise/ branch wise ACP targets.

Shri Meena informed that, this year, the insurance premium for Potato & Sugar Cane crops would entirely be borne by the State Government under the Bangla Sashya Bima (BSB) Yojana. However, the official notification is yet to come.


**(Action Point 2: Member Banks, NABARD)**



Shri Debojyoti Datta, AGM, RBI pointed out that during branch visit it had been observed that the branch managers were not aware about the ACP target, so ACP target to be shared with the branches by their controlling office. He also directed the member banks to focus on lending to small and marginal farmer.

**(Action Point 3. Member Banks)**

There being no other points of discussion, the meeting ended with exchange of vote of thanks to the chair & the participants by Sri S.S. Singh

  
(Shri Shankar Singh)  
General Manager  
SLBC West Bengal

**List of participants in SLBC Sub-Committee on Agriculture held on 02.07.2024 at 03:30 PM. at Nabanna, 3rd floor Conference Hall (Room No. 310) and also through VC**

SI No	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Sri Onkar Singh Meena	Principal Secretary,	Agriculture Department, GoWB
2	Sri Vivek Kumar	Joint Secretary	Agriculture Department, GoWB
4	Sri Manas Dhar	Director & Special Secretary	Institutional Finance, GoWB
5	Sri Shio Shankar Singh	General Manager	SLBC, West Bengal
6	Sri Sidhartha S Dash	General Manager	SBI
7	Sri P C Khurana	Zonal Head	Central Bank
8	Sri Partha Sarathi Saha	Dy Director	Fin Deptt, GoWB
9	Sri B Mukherjee	ADA(EV)	Agriculture Department, GoWB
10	Dr. S Ray	J.D (P) Admin, SE & E	Agriculture Department, GoWB
11	Sri Prabir Hazra	ADA (General)	Agriculture Department, GoWB
12	Sri P K Das	Dy ZM	Bank of India
13	Sri Dharmendra Beuria	DGM	NABARD
14	Sri Debajyoti Datta	AGM	Reserve Bank of India
15	Smt Ishita Sarkar	DRCS & DGM	WBSCB
16	Sri Alok Jain	DGM	SBI
17	Sri Samir Kr Sain	AGM	Union Bank of India
18	Sri K L Gupta	AGM	Indian Bank
19	Sri Shyamal Kr Biswas	AGM	BGVB
20	Sri A Landge	AGM	UCO Bank
21	Sri Mainak Ghosh	Asst. Vice President	HDFC Bank
22	Sri S K Bose	CM (SLBC)	BOI
23	Shruti Mehrotra	CM	IOB
24	Sri Subrata Biswas	CM	PBGB
25	Subhadip Chatterjee	CM	Bank of Baroda
26	Parayani Soren	CM	PNB
27	Sri Prasenjit Bhattacharjee	CM	ICICI BANK
28	Sri Chandrajeet Dubey	RH , AGRI	Bandhan Bank
29	Sri Vishal Ch Sinha	SM	Union Bank of India
30	Sri Prasenjit Jana	SM	Canara Bank
31	Sri Dipesh Chakraborty	Nodal Head	Axis Bank
	P Gunjan	RH , KOL II	ICICI BANK
	All DDA (Admin)		Through VC
	All DCCBs		Through VC
	All DDMs & all LDMs		Through VC

