

Minutes of The Meeting of State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) on Fixation of Scale of Finance Held at Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Nabanna on 26.03.2025 at 03.00 PM

Sri Onkar Singh Meena, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Agriculture chaired the State Level Technical Committee Meeting. The Chairman welcomed the participants and requested the Convenor to begin the agenda wise discussion.

Agenda discussed and decisions taken are given below:

Agenda-1	Discussions held and decisions taken
<p>Finalizing the District Wise Scale of Finance for Agriculture and Horticulture Crops and Schemes under Working Capital requirement for Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sector for 2025-26.</p>	<p>i. <u>Agriculture Crops:</u></p> <p>a. The fact that huge discrepancies persist in the Scale of Finance of agriculture crops over years within the same agro-climatic zones had been a matter of concern. It was decided last year that the SoF for the Agriculture crops will be rationalized thoroughly in this year eliminating all such discrepancies.</p> <p>b. Director of Agriculture has submitted the district wise Scale of Finance accordingly. After detailed discussion, the Scale of Finance was approved.</p> <p>c. It was proposed that the Credit Limit given to farmers by the Banks shall not be reduced to the disadvantage of any farmers, due to decrease in Scale of Finance in some cases. Particularly, the credit limit for renewal cases shall not be reduced. For new applicants/ fresh cases, it will be fixed as per the standard formula for fixing the credit limit.</p> <p>Moreover, amount that falls short in the credit limit of renewal cases, due to reduction in the Scale of Finance can be provided in ARD loans</p> <p>The Scale of Finance for various agriculture crops as proposed after rationalization was unanimously accepted by the House.</p> <p>The revised SoF for Agriculture Crops has been annexed in <u>Annexure-1</u>.</p> <p>ii. <u>Horticulture Crops:</u></p> <p>a. The Scale of Finance as proposed by the Director of Horticulture are applicable to all districts. The most commonly grown crops have been mentioned in the meeting. If any district specifically requires the breakup of various cost components, it will be provided by the Directorate of Horticulture.</p> <p>b. The cost norms of any notified State or central sponsored schemes/MIDH/RKVY may be followed and shall be considered for financing by the Banks in case cost norms are not available in SoF as prepared by Director of Horticulture.</p> <p>c. Regarding Scale of Finance for medicinal plants, the same has not been included since the cost of plantation is taken care of by AYUSH, under Department of Health and Family Welfare through various comprehensive schemes. The SoF for Tulsi, Aloe vera etc. as provided by some districts are for selling of the leaves and not for medicinal purposes. The committee did not consider the Scale of Finance for such items as not available.</p>

	<p>d. The Chairman of SLTC directed the Joint Director of Horticulture to prepare a comprehensive SoF with detailed cost breakup considering various schemes from next year onwards. The Scale of Finance for various horticulture crops as proposed after rationalization was unanimously accepted by the House.</p> <p>The revised SoF for Horticulture Crops has been annexed in <u>Annexure-2</u>.</p>
	<p>iii. <u>Animal Husbandry:</u></p> <p>Detailed SoF for working capital of ARD Schemes and also for KCC ARD, for the year 2025-26 was placed and the same was unanimously accepted by the house. The SoF for ARD Schemes has been annexed in <u>Annexure-3</u></p>
	<p>iv. <u>Fisheries:</u></p> <p>a. Detailed schemes under Fisheries Sector for the FY 2025-26 were placed before the House.</p> <p>b. The fish vending on bicycle on insulated box could not be approved in terms of RBI Memo No. FIDD. KOL.LBS.No.488/ 03.01.025/ 2020-21 dated June 29, 2020. The Managing Director appraised that vending machine or bicycle is not a component required for production. And since the Scale of Finance includes only production components, this cannot be accepted under MJCC, as noted by the committee.</p> <p>c. The convenor of SLBC was requested to see whether such loans can be given through West Bengal Bhabishyat Credit Cards or through PMMSY or Banga Matysa Yojna.</p> <p>d. Sl. No.22, 23, 24 and 25 in the proposed list are new schemes whose unit area has been reduced in hilly areas and approved.</p> <p>The SoF for various schemes under Fisheries was unanimously accepted by the house and is annexed in <u>Annexure-4</u>.</p>
	<p>v. <u>Tea:</u></p> <p>The Scale of Finance for Tea cultivation for hills and plains was placed and the same was accepted by the House. The proposed Scale of Finance has been annexed in <u>Annexure-5</u>.</p>

There being no other issues, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks.



Chairman
State Level Technical Committee

ONKAR SINGH MEENA, IAS
Principal Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Government of West Bengal

List of participants in the State Level Technical Committee Meeting

1. Sri Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary to Govt. of West Bengal, Dept. of Agriculture and Chairman of SLTC.
2. Smt. Sima Sarkar, IAS, Senior Special Secretary to Govt. of West Bengal, Department of Agriculture.
3. Sri S.R. Mohanty, IAS, Director of Fisheries, Govt. of West Bengal.
4. Sri Prabir Hazra, Director of Agriculture and Ex-Officio Secretary to West Bengal.
5. Sri Sujan Sarkar, Additional RCS and Managing Director of The West Bengal State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and Convenor of SLTC.
6. Sri P. K. Jana, Additional Director of Fisheries (Tech), Fisheries Directorate.
7. Sri Laksmi Kanta Jana, Additional Director of Agriculture (General).
8. Sri B. Mukherjee, ADA (Evaluation).
9. Aiub Ali Khan, Joint Director of Agriculture (Farm).
10. Dr. Safique-ul Alam, Joint Director of Agriculture (Plan).
11. Sri Koushik Chakraborty, Joint Director of Horticulture.
12. Sri Prasenjit Maity, Joint RCS, Cooperation Directorate.
13. Sri Balbir Singh, General Manager, SLBC.
14. Sri Subrata Datta, Chief Manager, PNB, SLBC
15. Sri Laxman Soy, DGM, NABARD
16. Smt. Ishita Sarkar, Dy. RCS and DGM (IDD), The West Bengal State Cooperative Bank Ltd.
17. Sri B. Pagalavan, Assistant Director Tea
18. Sri Debasis Roy, Deputy Director of Agril Marketing, Directorate of Horticulture
19. Sri Prabir Roy, Assistant Director, ARD Department.
20. Sri Anirban Pradhan, Assistant Director of Agriculture (Farm)
21. Sri Sumanta Kumar Khan, Staff Officer, The WBSCB Ltd.