

Resource Support Agency (RSA)

The services of RSA will be engaged only if the number of POPIs exceeds 5 in a state. RSA shall have good experience in successful promotion of POs. Each RSA will supervise a group of 20 to 25 POPIs (involving around 100 POs) having regional contiguity in the state. Wherever the number of POPIs / FPOs are more, NABARD may consider engaging additional RSA/s by considering one RSA for 20-25 POPIs or 80-100 FPOs, depending on the clusterisation of FPOs. Accordingly, POPIs under one RSA may, as far as possible, have regional contiguity.

The major roles of RSA are as under:

- a) Organizing capacity building programmes for the POPIs
- b) Providing necessary handholding support to POPIs for undertaking the promotion of quality POs in the state/ region
- c) Achieving desired growth rate in mobilization of shareholders / members having voting rights viz. 200 by end of 3rd year and 350 by end of 5th year in 'Difficult Areas' (comprising of North Eastern Region (NER), Hilly States / Hilly UTs, Islands and Left Wing Extremist (LWE) Districts); while 400 and 700 by the end of 3rd and 5th year, respectively, in 'Other Areas' (all other States & UTs and Non-LWE districts).
- d) Facilitating and ensuring POPIs in preparation of appropriate Business Plans of FPOs, based on the products / output of the FPOs, preparation of Detailed Project Reports for securing institutional credit and development of credit and market linkages of POs.
- e) Review of timely account keeping, audit, legal compliance of POs, etc. promoted by the concerned POPIs and facilitate them in their compliance.
- f) Facilitating resolution of operational issues of POs, if any.
- g) Facilitating convergence of various Schemes of Government and/or Corporate, etc. for improved ecosystem services
- h) Guiding and facilitating the POPIs in obtaining the required statutory permissions / approvals for holding / storing and distribution / supply of inputs to the farmers and in marketing of the produce in notified markets/ mandis

Based on the roles and responsibilities of RSAs as defined above, each RSA is required to submit to NABARD a detailed proposal along with annual action plan with firm timelines, milestones to be achieved and other measurable deliverables / indicators for a specified number of POPIs and the FPOs nurtured by those POPIs. The proposal will be examined by NABARD as per the requirements of the State and accord sanction of grant to RSA.

The proposal of the RSA for financial assistance shall be considered by NABARD based on the training programmes proposed to be provided to the POPI personnel and the nature / type of handholding services to be provided to the FPOs

promoted and being nurtured by such POPIs. The total eligible grant shall be assessed for various training programmes and the facilitation services on unit cost basis for one year period only, and, subsequently, if required, again for another year and so on. Thus, the sanction of grant assistance to RSAs by NABARD shall be year-on-year basis.