 Provision of Additional Short-Term (ST) refinance by NABARD to State Cooperative Banks for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) - Policy for F.Y. 2020-21

Please refer to NB.DoR.ST Policy/3291/A-1(2018-19) dated 28 March 2019 (Circular No.85/DoR-27/2019) and NB.DoR.ST.Policy/1491/A-1(2019-20) dated 23 August 2019 (Circular No.255/DoR-72/2019) on the captioned subject, communicating policy/modification in policy for sanction of Additional Short -Term (ST) refinance to State Cooperative Banks for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) for the FY 2019-20. The policy has since been reviewed and the same is finalized given in Annexure I. The total limit sanctioned under Additional Short-Term refinance would be upto 60% of RLP of eligible CCBs in a 3 tier structure and the StCB in case of a 2 tier structure including outstanding under normal ST (SAO) or as per para ‘4’ of Annexure-I.
2. The StCBs can draw up to 60% (including the amount drawn under STCRC fund) of GLC or as the case may be, under this line of credit.

3. You may submit an application for sanction of additional ST (SAO) credit limit on behalf of all the eligible DCCBs in 3 tier structure/StCB in 2 tier structure, in the prescribed proforma to NABARD RO.

4. Please acknowledge receipt of this circular to our Regional Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>भवदीय</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(जिजी मामैन)</td>
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<tr>
<td>मुख्य महाप्रबंधक</td>
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<tr>
<td>संलग्न: उपरोक्त अनुसार</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annexure I

Provision of Additional Short-Term refinance by NABARD to State Cooperative Banks for financing Seasonal Agricultural Operations - Policy for F. Y. 2020-21

1. **Operative period of Additional ST (SAO) limit**

The operative period of Additional ST(SAO) limit for F. Y. 2020-21 will be **01.04.2020 to 31.03.2021**. Additional ST (SAO) refinance will be provided to the StCB in respect of crop loans disbursed only during the operative period.

2. **Sanction of consolidated limit**

   a. A consolidated limit under Additional ST (SAO) will be sanctioned to
      
      i. StCBs on behalf of eligible DCCBs in 3 tier structure.
      
      ii. Eligible StCB in case of 2 tier structure or in case of weak DCCBs (which are not in a position to finance PACS)

   b. The limit will be sanctioned to StCB under Sec. 21(1) (i) read with Sec. 21(4) of the NABARD Act, 1981 against DPN executed by StCB.

   c. StCB has to declare in writing, at the time of each drawal that the drawal preferred and the refinance already availed are against the loans provided by StCB to eligible DCCBs in 3 tier structure /StCB branches in 2 tier structure for financing SAO and are covered by adequate non-overdue loans outstanding at DCCB/StCB branch level against PACS. Banks are required to submit NODC statement to NABARD regularly either in physical form or through digitized platform.

   d. TPNs executed by DCCBs in favour of StCB will continue to be endorsed in favour of NABARD and StCB will keep the endorsed TPNs with them as agent of NABARD.

3. **Eligibility norms for StCB / CCBs**

3.1 **Audit**

The Audit of StCB / DCCBs for the year 2018-19 should have been completed and the relative audit reports along with financial statements should have been submitted to the concerned Regional Office of NABARD for considering the loan application in the first half of the year. The audit of DCCBs/StCB for 2019-20 should be completed and the report submitted by 30.09.2020. Sanction and Drawals on or after 01.10.2020 will be permitted only to such StCBs against their branches or DCCBs, which have completed the audit for the year 2019-20 and submitted the relevant audit report to the concerned RO of NABARD and subject to satisfactory position regarding the eligibility norms.

3.2 **Compliance with licensing and CRAR norms**
All licensed StCBs (Scheduled / Non Scheduled) and licensed DCCBs fulfilling CRAR conditions as stipulated by extant RBI guidelines which are mentioned below will be eligible for refinance under Additional ST(SAO).

3.3 Limits to scheduled StCBs and affiliated CCBs

3.3.1 StCBs / DCCBs having CRAR of 9% and above only will be eligible.

3.3.2 In case of StCBs with CRAR of 9% and above but individual DCCBs with less than 9%, no credit limit will be available on behalf of such DCCBs.

3.3.3 In case of StCB with CRAR less than 9% and DCCBs with CRAR greater than 9%, credit limit will be sanctioned directly to the DCCBs against Government Guarantee or against pledge of Government approved securities/ FDRs of scheduled banks. In case of providing direct refinance to DCCBs, guidelines issued vide our circular No.172 dated 09.09.2011 may be followed.

3.4 Limits to non-scheduled StCBs

Non-scheduled StCBs which fulfill the CRAR criteria as provided above, will be eligible for sanction of credit limits against Government guarantee under Sec. 21(3)(a) of NABARD Act, 1981 or pledge of Govt. / approved securities (as defined in section 5(a) of BR Act, 1949) under Sec. 21(2)(i) of Act ibid and / or pledge of FDRs of Scheduled Banks under Sec. 33 of Act ibid.

3.5 NPA norm

The eligibility, among other things, will be based on the net NPA position of StCBs as on 31.03.2019. The Banks with Net NPAs not exceeding 12% of net loans and advances outstanding will be eligible for refinance. Net NPA criteria for StCBs in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been relaxed to 15% of net loans and advances outstanding.

3.6 Eligibility criteria during 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 will be based on their audited financial position as on 31.03.2019 or 31.03.2020 (if audited position as on 31.03.2020 is available). From 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2021, eligibility criteria will be based on their audited financial position as on 31.03.2020. Sanction and Drawals of refinance on or after 01.10.2020 will be permitted only to such StCBs/ DCCBs, which have completed the audit and submitted a satisfactory audit report to the concerned RO of NABARD.

3.7 CRAR and NPA position as indicated in the statutory audit report will form the basis for eligibility. However, in the event of any variation between the audit report and the Inspection Report of NABARD, the latter will be reckoned for determining the eligibility. In case of any reason beyond the control of the Bank, the bank is unable to fulfil the eligibility criteria, NABARD may consider a lower eligibility norms, with adequate comforts/ security.

3.8 The net NPA position at StCB level and not at the level of StCB branches will be reckoned for the purpose of eligibility of StCB. In case of providing direct refinance to DCCBs, net NPA position at DCCB level and not at the level of DCCB branches will be reckoned for the purpose of eligibility.
4. Quantum of refinance

4.1. The quantum of refinance for sanction will be as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net NPAs of StCB</th>
<th>Eligible limit [As a percentage of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP) of eligible CCBs/StCB (in two tier/weak DCCBs)]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 6% &amp; up to 10%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 10% &amp; up to 12%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 12%</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2. StCBs in the North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Andaman & Nicobar Islands, will be eligible for additional refinance of 20% with relaxation in net NPAs, as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net NPAs of StCB</th>
<th>Eligible limit [As a percentage of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP) of eligible CCBs/StCB (in two tier/weak DCCBs)]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 10% &amp; up to 15%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 15%</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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4.3. StCBs in Eastern Region viz. Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh States and 28 districts in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (under BGREI scheme of Govt. of India) will be eligible for additional refinance of 5% over and above the applicable normal quantum of refinance, as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net NPAs of StCB</th>
<th>Eligible limit [As a percentage of Realistic Lending Programme (RLP) of eligible CCBs/StCB (in two tier/weak DCCBs)]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 6% &amp; up to 10%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 10% &amp; up to 15%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 15%</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4. The RLP for the year 2020-21 may be arrived at on the basis of average growth rate in crop loans disbursed during previous three years (taking into account the crop loans disbursed data for last four years). However, keeping in view the ground level realities and other facts, if any, NABARD may accept RLP which may be lower or higher than the RLP worked out by the StCB.

4.5. The StCBs can draw upto 60% GLC including the amount drawn under STCRC fund or as the case may be, under this line of credit.

4.6. The limit will be available only for crop loans issued upto ₹3 lakh at farmer level.
4.7. The refinance under this line of credit will be reckoned as owned funds of the bank which is eligible for Interest subvention as per extant Interest Subvention Scheme guidelines of GoI.

5. **Rate of interest on Refinance**

5.1. **Interest Rate**

The interest rates on refinance will be as decided by NABARD from time to time. Interest is payable at half-yearly rests on 01 October and 01 April, as hitherto. In the event of bank repaying the entire principal amount, the interest will be payable along with principal amount.

5.2. **Penal interest in case of default**

StCBs which fail to honour their commitments to NABARD in repayment of principal, payment of interest and / or other dues by the prescribed due dates, will not be eligible for any type of refinance facility from NABARD. Resumption of refinance may be considered, only after the bank clears the default. In the event of default, penal interest rate of 2% p.a over and above the interest rate at which refinance was disbursed, will be charged on the defaulted amount and for the period for which the default persists. The penal interest rates are subject to revision from time to time.

6. **Notice of Repayment**

The amount drawn against the limit are repayable on demand. However, each drawal on the credit limit would be treated as a separate loan and would normally be repayable in a period of 12 months from the date of drawal. Repayments (partial of full) before the expiry of 12 months may be accepted by NABARD with minimum notice of 15 working days or with interest payment of 15 days along with the principal. The notice period may, however, be waived in case the repayment is made 30 days after the date of drawal.

7. **Operational discipline**

7.1. **Drawal of refinance by StCBs under Additional ST (SAO) limit** will be restricted to applicable percentage of refinance of the loan issued during the year 2020-21.

7.2. **Excess Drawal**

NABARD will take a serious view in case of availment of drawals beyond permissible quantum of refinance on account of reporting of incorrect data about loan disbursement or of NODC by calling back the excess refinance availed by the bank within 3 days along with the penal interest of 1% p.a.

7.3. **NODC**

Drawals on the sanctioned limit will be permitted by NABARD to StCB on the basis of aggregate NODC (including that for normal limit) pertaining to the eligible DCCBs, which have outstanding borrowings from StCB as hitherto. The banks will however be required to monitor NODC and no additional interest may be charged if overall NODC is available.
The StCB will have to submit monthly NODC statement indicating DCCB-wise position by 20th of the succeeding month physically or through digital platform.

At the time of each drawal, a certificate in the prescribed format, regarding the availability of aggregate NODC, as on the date of drawal will have to be furnished by the bank. Moreover, it may be ensured by the bank that on any day, total of normal ST (SAO) outstanding and the Additional ST (SAO) outstanding should not exceed the aggregate NODC available on that date.

7.4. **Penal interest on NODC deficit**

In case of deficit in NODC, StCBs will have to make good the deficit in NODC. In case the StCB fails to make good the deficit within one month from the date of occurrence of such deficit, additional interest @ 1% p.a. will be charged on the deficit in NODC for the duration of deficit i.e. till the date on which the amount of deficit is regularized.

7.5 **Segregation of principal and interest in the loans outstanding**

StCB may exclude the interest component (overdue/ non-overdue interest) from the outstanding amount and report the principal loan amount only, both in their applications for credit limit and drawal application, for arriving at the eligibility for refinance support from NABARD. Besides, only the principal portion of loans (issued, recovered, outstanding and overdues) should be reported in the monthly NODC statements.

8. **Defaults by DCCBs to StCB**

In case a DCCB is in default to the StCB under this line of credit continuously for a period exceeding 3 months, the StCB concerned will not be allowed to operate on the limit in respect of the DCCB concerned till the default is regularized.

9. **Clearance of default**

StCBs which fail to honour their commitments to NABARD in repayment of principal, payment of interest and / or any other dues by the prescribed due dates, will not be eligible for any refinance facility from NABARD till the clearance of default in question.

10. **Right to inspection**

NABARD reserves the right to inspect / get inspected the books of accounts of the bank (StCB / eligible CCBs).

11. **Right to cause special audit**

NABARD will have the right to cause special audit of the books of accounts and other relevant material of the Cooperative Banks (StCB/ eligible DCCBs) either by itself or through other agencies to ensure that the same are maintained as per the rules and regulations in force and the terms and conditions of refinance are adhered to by the bank.
12. Others

All other terms and conditions applicable for providing refinance under ST(SAO) will be applicable to Additional ST(SAO) refinance too.

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