

NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BOARD
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India
85, Institutional Area, Sector-18, Gurgaon
Website : www.nhb.gov.in

PUBLIC CIRCULAR

No.NHB/CC/Guidelines/2026-27/2101

August 21, 2026

Subject: Amendment in the Scheme Guidelines of Commercial Horticulture and Cold Storage Schemes of National Horticulture Board – regarding.

With a view to rationalise financial assistance, ensure equitable distribution of benefits, prevent duplication of subsidy, and make the implementation of the Schemes more transparent and effective, following amendments in the Scheme Guidelines shall be applicable with immediate effect:

1. Revised Definition of Family and Eligibility

For the purpose of determining eligibility under NHB Schemes, the term “family” shall comprise the applicant's spouse, father, mother, sons and daughters.

- Only one member of a family shall be eligible to avail financial assistance under NHB Schemes, whether individually or through HUF, partnership/proprietorship firm or as a Director of a Company, subject to the applicable provisions.
- Financial assistance availed by any member of a family shall be treated as financial assistance availed by the same family.
- Once financial assistance has been availed by any member of an applicant's family under any NHB Scheme/component, no further financial assistance shall be admissible to any other member of the same family under any NHB Scheme/component, irrespective of any unutilised portion of the maximum admissible ceiling.
- The restriction shall apply across all NHB Schemes/components and shall constitute the final entitlement of the family.
- Where financial assistance has already been availed by an FPO/FPC/Company, its members shall be eligible to avail assistance once in their individual capacity, subject to the revised definition of family.
- Applicants shall furnish the prescribed declaration regarding their eligibility and that of the family members covered under the definition of family, as per prescribed format of NHB.
- Suppression, misrepresentation or furnishing of incorrect information for obtaining financial assistance shall render the applicant liable for recovery of the assistance released along with applicable interest.

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2. Categories Not Eligible for NHB Assistance

The following categories shall not be eligible for financial assistance under NHB Schemes:

1. Present holders of Constitutional Posts;
2. Present Ministers, Ministers of State, Members of Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha, Members of State Legislative Assemblies/Councils, Mayors of Municipal Corporations and Chairpersons of District Panchayats;
3. Serving employees of Central/State Government Ministries/Departments, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies and Local Bodies, except MTS/Class-IV/Group-D employees;
4. Superannuated/retired pensioners receiving monthly pension of ₹10,000/- or more, excluding MTS/Class-IV/Group-D employees; and
5. Group of Farmers.

Family members of persons falling in the above categories may, however, avail one-time assistance, subject to the applicable provisions of the revised definition of family.

3. Revision in Rate of Financial Assistance

The rate of subsidy/financial assistance under various components has been revised. The revised rates include, inter alia:

Component	General Area	NER/Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas and specified UTs*
Open Field Cultivation Projects	35%	45%
Protected Cultivation Projects, including plug-type nurseries under protected conditions		
New Tissue Culture Units – Private Sector		
Integrated Mushroom Units		
Post-Harvest Management Components, including Secondary Primary/Processing		
Cold Storage Projects		

*As applicable under the respective Scheme Guidelines, including NER and Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The applicable ceiling of subsidy and other component-specific conditions shall remain as prescribed in the revised Scheme Guidelines.

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4. Cold Storage Scheme

Under the revised provisions, NHB shall provide credit-linked back-ended subsidy at:

- 35% of the eligible project cost in General Areas; and
- 45% in NER and Himalayan States, Scheduled Areas, Vibrant Villages, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

The maximum subsidy admissible from NHB for any type of cold storage project shall not exceed ₹2.00 crore.

5. Cost of Land

The cost of land shall not be considered as part of the eligible project cost under the revised provisions.

6. Voluntary Refund/Exit from Scheme

A beneficiary may, during the prescribed lock-in period, voluntarily opt out of the Scheme by refunding the entire subsidy amount along with applicable interest, if any, as prescribed under the Scheme or decided by the Competent Authority.

Upon acceptance of the refund by NHB and fulfilment of the prescribed conditions, the beneficiary shall be discharged from the obligations and restrictions arising from the subsidy assistance.

7. Revision in Cost of Application Form and Scheme Brochure

The cost of the application form and Scheme brochure has also been revised. The revised charges shall be applicable as per the following schedule:

Project Cost	Revised Cost (₹)*
Up to ₹20 lakh	2,000
More than ₹20 lakh and up to ₹50 lakh	5,000
More than ₹50 lakh and up to ₹100 lakh	10,000
More than ₹100 lakh and up to ₹150 lakh	15,000
More than ₹150 lakh and up to ₹200 lakh	20,000
More than ₹200 lakh	50,000

*18% GST as applicable shall be extra.

The revised charges shall apply as prescribed in the amended Scheme Guidelines.

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9. Applicability to Pending Cases

The amended provisions shall come into force with immediate effect. All ongoing/pending LoC/GoC applications and subsidy claims shall be dealt by NHB with on a case-to-case basis, guided by the letter and spirit of the amended provisions and the applicable directions of the Competent Authority.

10. General

All applicants/beneficiaries are advised to carefully study the revised Scheme Guidelines before submitting applications or seeking financial assistance from NHB.

The detailed amended Scheme Guidelines may be referred to for component-wise eligibility, admissible project cost, subsidy ceilings, documentation, declarations and other applicable conditions.

This circular is issued for information and compliance of all concerned.

[Signature]
21/08/2024
(C.P. Gandhi)

Joint Director (Coordination)

Copy to :

1. JS (MIDH), DA&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
2. All officers and Staff of NHB at HQ and State Offices
3. IT Division, NHB to upload it in public/internal circular, guidelines section and make suitable changes in the online application software
4. PS to MD/DMD