

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROMOTION FUND (RIPF)

NABARD has created a separate fund titled 'Rural Infrastructure Promotion Fund' (RIPF) to support programs and activities that promote rural infrastructure, with the ultimate objective of facilitating agriculture and rural development. RIPF has been set up with a corpus of Rs. 25 crore. The amount is contributed out of margin received by NABARD from a special window created under RIDF for funding the rural roads component of Bharat Nirman through National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA).

Objectives of RIPF:

The objective of RIPF is to support the activities required to support the promotional efforts of RIDF, including:

- Support for conducting knowledge sharing workshops, national/ international exposure visits for senior level bank/State functionaries, exchange of technical experts, etc.
- Support for survey of potential assessment/ demand survey for new agri/rural infrastructure projects
- Support to State Governments for preparation of detailed project reports for infrastructure development of North-East/East/Hilly areas by NABCONS upon the approval of the concerned State Government
- Creation of experimental infrastructure projects by Gram Panchayats (GPs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/SHG Federations, Farmers' Clubs (FC)/ Farmers Clubs Federations and NGOs and villages under Village Development Plans (VDPs) Guiding Principles of RIPF Any support provided under RIPF will be guided by the following principles:
 - Activities to be supported should lead to promotion of sustainable infrastructure development in rural and agriculture & allied sector
 - Activities should include a component for documentation of experience during implementation.
 - Special thrust to be provided to North-East Regions, including Sikkim, Eastern Region and Hilly Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and J&K for creation of experimental/promotional infrastructure as also for supporting all other activities
 - Experimental projects/activities to be supported under RIPF should be prototypes of innovative/experimental/demonstrative nature.
- Any infrastructure assets created out should result in improvement or generate demand for other infrastructures of higher order

Eligible Activities under RIPF:

The following activities will be eligible for assistance under RIPF:

- Knowledge sharing workshops/seminars, conferences for policy makers/peoples' representatives, particularly on topics of infrastructure development/ promotion

- Exposure visits, both national and international, of officials from commercial banks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Government of India (GoI), State Governments, NABARD and other agencies involved in promotion of rural infrastructure
- Exposure visits of Government officials from one State to another and for exchange of technical experts, academicians, economists, media people, NGOs, peoples' representatives, to get first-hand knowledge on the implementation procedure of RIDF, good practices, etc.
- Evaluation studies on RIDF projects, external monitoring of innovative infrastructure projects and survey for potential assessment/demand survey for new rural infrastructure projects along with publication of success stories, documentation of good practices, etc. in infrastructure sector
- Preparation of detailed project reports for infrastructure development of North-East/ East/Hilly areas by NABCONS upon the approval of the concerned State Government
- Support to different stakeholders to develop/promote experimental infrastructure projects/prototypes that may generate demand for infrastructures of higher order through RIDF

*As an illustration, a brief note on a few eligible activities is given below:

- Supporting critical infrastructure that require smaller investments with a focus on last mile connectivity (small infrastructure projects like Rural Roads of a few meters/kilometers, small bridges including bamboo, wooden, footover and foot bridges for trespassing, small bridges for light vehicles, small water harvesting structures and check dams, etc. that are identified by Gram Sabha, Federation of SHGs, FCs, etc.)
- Model/experimental projects in power generation and utilization, renewable energy sources (besides small Hydro) with the help of NGOs
- Innovative projects with the help of technical Institutions – low cost design for Aanganwadis, schools, check dams by using locally available building materials, etc.
- Localised processing Infrastructure (sorting, grading, bulk coolers for milk, etc.). Community bio-gas plants, drinking water resource augmentation like rain water harvesting, distribution system for smaller habitations with investments worth a few lakhs, select components of critical infrastructure (projects identified under VDPs/Watershed and Tribal Development Projects, Cluster Projects under off-farm sector where investment is less and funding from other sources may not be available).
- Support for software development for RIDF operations, viz., project appraisal, database management, monitoring, etc.
- Other activities that directly or indirectly lead to promotion of infrastructure in rural areas Eligible Institutions

The following institutions/ individuals will be eligible for assistance from RIPF:

- State Governments/UTs

- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), registered Community Based Organisations (CBOs) providing different support services to agricultural and allied sectors
- Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), SHGs/ SHG Federations and Farmers' Clubs/FC Federations, etc.
- Research Institutions, Universities, etc.
- Other stakeholders whose objectives/ activities are in conformity with the overall objectives of RIPF and are approved by NABARD in this regard
- Offices of NABARD