

NABARD pegs State's credit potential at ₹1.35 lakh crore

Projection is 18.5% higher than the last fiscal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has projected Telangana State's credit potential for the financial year 2021-22 at ₹1,35,780.33 crore, which is 18.5% higher than the previous year's ₹1,14,578 crore.

Farm credit gets the lion's share of the total credit potential at ₹72,321.93 crore, almost ₹9,000 crore more than the current fiscal's ₹63,388 crore and the ancillary activities like food processing accounted to ₹8,281.3 crore against the ₹7,812.22 crore projected for the current financial year. Credit potential for agriculture infrastructure was pegged at ₹2,764 crore against the ₹2,484 crore in the credit plan released by the bank in the presence of Finance Minister T. Harish Rao on Friday.

Credit potential for MSMEs too received due attention with an estimated ₹39,361.13 crore, over ₹10,000 crore higher than the ₹28,577.64 crore projected for the fiscal 2020-21. Housing credit was project-



Finance Minister Harish Rao, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and Planning Board VC Vinod Kumar during the launch of the bank paper in Hyderabad on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ed at ₹8,640.21 crore while the projection for education was at ₹2,347.85 crore against ₹8,149.86 crore and ₹2,256.26 crore projected respectively for the year 2020-21. NABARD chief general manager Y.K. Rao said four major thrust areas – farm mechanisation, oil palm cultivation, farmer producer organisations and agriculture infrastructure fund – were identified by the bank for the next fiscal in view of major interventions taken up by the State government as well as the bank.

Mr. Harish Rao thanked NABARD for implementing his suggestions as part of the year's plan and said the credit plans should be designed

keeping in view the needs and aspirations of farmers. Elaborating on the strides made in Telangana in the priority sector, he said that the State registered cultivation in over 65 lakh acres last rabi, which was much higher than the normal of around 30 lakh.

"Only increase in productivity will not benefit farmers, efforts should be made to reduce the production costs to help them," he said. State Planning Board vice-chairman B. Vinod Kumar said that agricultural production in the State had increased manifold post bifurcation, but no commensurate increase in the income of farmers.