

Advertisement for Empanelment of Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for Implementation of Central Sector Scheme for Formation and Promotion of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs)

1. Government of India formulated a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) viz., “Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)”. The Scheme has been launched by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India for formation and promotion of 10,000 FPOs over a period of 5 years i.e., by 2023-24. Please refer to the website of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India for detailed operational guidelines (<http://agricoop.nic.in>).

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) are among the Implementing Agencies identified by GoI under the Scheme. NABARD and NCDC together will promote about 6000 FPOs during the 5 years and about 600 each during 2020-21. The tentative list of blocks / districts / states where NABARD and NCDC will form FPOs during 2020-21 is indicated in Annexure I.

Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) will be set up at the State/Cluster level by NABARD / NCDC to form and promote FPOs. A CBBO has professional experience and exposure in formation of FPOs in agriculture and allied sectors, and providing handholding support to the FPOs. For a detailed understanding of roles and responsibilities of CBBOs, the operational guidelines available on the website of MoA&FW may be referred.

NABARD and NCDC intend to jointly empanel the CBBOs for promotion of FPOs. NCDC will promote FPOs which will be registered under Cooperative Societies Acts of respective States, while NABARD will promote FPOs which can be registered under any Statute such as Companies Act, Cooperatives Societies Act, Trust Act, etc

2. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) invite applications from the eligible Organizations/Agencies complying with “Minimum Eligibility Criteria” for empanelment as Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for implementation of Central Sector Scheme i.e. “Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producers’ Organizations (FPOs)” in various States across the country. Eligible Organizations/Agencies may download the application form from the websites of NABARD (www.nabard.org) and NCDC (www.ncdc.in).

The applications in prescribed format together with all necessary enclosures should be submitted in sealed cover to the Regional Offices of NABARD in respective States. The Application format for Legal Entities including CSR Organization / Foundation and other Agencies is enclosed as Annexure II A; and for Institutions promoted by Agricultural Universities, ICAR, KVKs, is enclosed as Annexure II B. The complete list of Regional Offices is enclosed as Annexure **III**.

The last date for receipt of application by NABARD Regional Offices is 11thDecember 2020.

Please note that corrigendum, if any, issued on the above advertisement will be published only on the websites of NABARD and NCDC.

3. Minimum Eligibility Criteria: It may be noted that the following minimum eligibility criteria be met to be eligible to apply for the role of CBBOs

A. Pre-Qualification:

- a) Any legal entity registered in India under the relevant Act or any institution established under any Act of Government of India or State and in existence for past 3 years shall be eligible.
- b) The agency should have a minimum average turnover/utilization of funds of INR \geq 2 crore for plain areas and INR \geq 1 crore for Himalayan and North Eastern Region during the past 3 years with positive net worth.
- c) Institutions promoted by Public Sector Agricultural Universities, ICAR/ KVKs or other similar institutions of Central/State Governments shall be exempt from the above requirements.

- d) Legal entities registered in India with turnover of INR \geq 250 crore who have been sponsoring and implementing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities directly or through their foundations/ trusts shall also be eligible & exempt from requirement mentioned at (a) above.
- e) The agency should not have been barred / blacklisted at any time by any Central Government Department/Agency/Public Sector Unit (PSU) of the Central Government or any State Government.
- f) The agency should have professionals/experts in at least 3 of the following 5 domains indicated below at the time of application:

S. No.	Designation	Qualification & Experience
1	Crop Husbandry	Graduate in Agriculture from a recognized University with 5+ years of relevant experience in crop production techniques, technology intervention and working with FPOs/Large Farmers' Groups etc.
2	Agri Marketing / Value Addition / Processing	MBA in Agribusiness Management or equivalent from a recognized University/ Institute with 3+ years of relevant experience in Agribusiness/ Agri. Marketing/ Value Chain Development including Post Harvest Management and working with FPOs/Large Farmers groups etc.
3	Social Mobilization	Graduate in Rural Development/ Social Work or Graduate with Diploma in Rural Development/Social Work from a recognized University/ Institute with 5+ years relevant experience in mobilization of farmers, field demonstrations, organizing village level meetings etc.
4	Information Technology/ MIS	B.Tech/ BCA in Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent from a recognized University/Institute with 3+ years of relevant experience of handling IT related assignments, MIS development, software development etc.
5	Law/Accounts	B.Com with 5+ years/Chartered Accountant/Company Secretary with 3+ years of relevant experience in accounting,

S. No.	Designation	Qualification & Experience
		auditing, statutory compliance, legal matters, arbitration etc.

However, the agency shall give an undertaking to NABARD/ NCDC to recruit experts with requisite experience from the remaining domains upon selection. NABARD / NCDC shall issue the Sanction/Approval Letter to the Agency only after ensuring that experts from all the above 5 domains are available with the agency.

B. Technical Qualification:

The agency should have technical qualification as per (a) below and any one of those contained in (b), (c) & (d), below:

a) The agency should have minimum 3 years of experience in Mobilization of farmers/ Formation or Promotion of Farmers Producer Organizations / Business Planning of FPOs or Large Farmers' groups*, which should be demonstrable through experience of working with Central/ State Governments/ PSUs/ National, International and Multi-lateral Organizations/ Companies/ CSR projects of Corporates/ Foundations/ Trusts/ Co-operatives/ FPOs independently promoted by the applicant (agency).

b) The agency should have experience in establishing Market and Credit linkages for FPOs/Large Farmers' groups*.

(or)

c) The agency should have experience in providing Capacity Building Trainings, Pre and Post-harvest Trainings/Demonstrations for FPOs/Large Farmers' groups*.

(or)

d) The agency should have experience in facilitating establishment of Pre-harvest/Post-harvest Infrastructure facilities viz. Seed Processing Units/Processing Mills/Packhouses / Warehouses / Cold Storages / Ripening Chambers/Custom Hiring Centres/ Common Facility Centres/ Primary & Secondary Processing Units/ Export Oriented

Infrastructure/ Cold Chain/ Supply Chain Management/ Branding/Marketing etc., for FPOs/Farmers' groups.

(Note: *Large Farmers' groups are defined as ≥ 2500 small and marginal farmers in plain areas and ≥ 500 in Himalayan and North Eastern Region)

4. Empanelment process : The process of empanelment of eligible agencies as CBBOs is indicated below :

- The applications, upon receipt will be subjected to a scrutiny to examine the adherence to minimum eligibility criteria, completeness of application form, submission of necessary documentary evidences, etc. Such agencies who fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria, complete information in application form and documentary evidences will be shortlisted for a presentation at the Regional Offices of NABARD in respective States
- The shortlisted agencies shall make a presentation before the Selection Committee chaired by the Chief General Manager / Officer – in – Charge of NABARD, representative of NCDC and other senior officers of NABARD
- The committee shall examine the suitability and empanel the agency based on the following broad parameters and weightage thereof.

S. No.	Name of the Segment	Weightage
1	Human Resources	25%
2	Work Experience	40%
3	Financial Strength	20%
4	Presentation	15%
	Total	100%

- The minimum cut-off score to be secured by an applicant organization/agency to be eligible for empanelment as a CBBO by NABARD/ NCDC in the State in which it has applied is 75%.
- The CBBOs so empanelled, shall be issued a letter of empanelment by the respective Regional Office of NABARD/ NCDC, specifying therein the names / details of the cluster(s) allocated to them, number of FPOs to be promoted during 2020-21, “focus” crop(s) / activities, particulars of the financial assistance to the CBBO in a given financial year. The

organization/agency shall, within 10 (ten) days of the receipt of the empanelment letter, sign, and return the duplicate copy in acknowledgement thereof. NABARD/NCDC and the organization/ agency acting as a CBBO shall enter into a separate formal Agreement for the purpose of implementation of the programme.

- In all matters regarding eligibility, assessment, minimum qualifying standards and communication of result, NABARD / NCDC's decision shall be final and binding on the applicants and no correspondence shall be entertained in this regard.
- NABARD / NCDC reserves the right to cancel the above empanelment as per institutional requirement without assigning any reason at any stage of empanelment process.
- The empanelled agencies will be allocated produce clusters where FPOs can be promoted. NABARD/ NCDC is not bound to allot/ allocate the “entire state” or “all the clusters” to an agency as proposed by it in the application. A decision would be taken by NABARD/ NCDC while considering allocation of clusters among the “empanelled” agencies. Notwithstanding the inclination of any prospective CBBO to promote FPO in specific districts/ blocks, the decision to allot specific districts/ blocks to the empanelled FPOs, solely rests with the Implementing Agencies i.e. NABARD and NCDC.

5. Right to verify the particulars / data furnished by the applicant agencies in the Application

NABARD/NCDC reserves the right to verify all statements, information, documents, etc. submitted by the Applicant in the application form. NABARD/ NCDC may also call for necessary additional details for verification of information, documents, data, etc.

6. Period of engagement as a CBBO

The period of empanelment of CBBO is for a maximum period of 5 years for the purpose of formation of new FPOs, for which they will continue handholding for entire relevant five years as provided in the Central Sector Scheme.

NABARD/NCDC shall review the performance of CBBOs from time to time for their continuation or otherwise. When new clusters are added in the subsequent year/s, NABARD/NCDC, depending on satisfactory implementation, may allocate new clusters to the same CBBO or to a new CBBO, as may be necessary.

NABARD/NCDC may also consider calling for fresh applications for CBBOs empanelment for developing new FPOs in subsequent years, if found necessary.

7. Financial Assistance to CBBOs and disbursement of funds / instalments to CBBOs will be based on operational guidelines of the scheme. The particulars of indicative financial assistance to CBBO for promotion of one FPO are furnished in Annexure IV to the advertisement.

8. Other Terms and Conditions

The following are some of the major terms and conditions of engaging the services of eligible agencies as CBBOs.

- Failure to comply with requirements spelt out in this document shall make the Application of any agency liable to be rejected. Similarly, incomplete applications or with no details furnished for any of the parameters in the Application are also liable to be rejected.
- If any Agency or any of its member(s) make(s) an averment regarding its or his/their qualification, experience, or other particulars and it turns out to be false at any stage during implementation of the Programme, the Agency shall be debarred forthwith in implementing the sanctioned / approved programme as a CBBO under the CSS but also shall be debarred for any future assignments of NABARD.
- In case it is found at any time before issue of the empanelment letter by NABARD that, one or more of the eligibility conditions have not been met by the Agency or it has made material misrepresentation or has given any materially incorrect or false information, the Agency shall be disqualified forthwith.

9. NABARD reserves the right to

- relax or waive any of the conditions as deemed necessary in the best interest of the objectives and implementation of the Scheme without assigning any reasons thereof.
 - include any other items at any time in the process
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