



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY

নং 58 দিশপুৰ, মঙ্গলবাৰ, 12 ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী, 2019, 23 মাঘ, 1940 (শক)
No. 58 Dispur, Tuesday, 12th February, 2019, 23rd Magha, 1940 (S.E.)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
FINANCE (INSTITUTIONAL FINANCE) DEPARTMENT :: DISPUR

NOTIFICATION

The 21st January, 2019

No.FIF.25/2018/78.- With an objective of incentivizing the prompt paying farmers and to expand the institutional agricultural credit flow to them, the Governor of Assam is pleased to issue the following guidelines for implementation of Assam Farmers' Interest Relief Scheme (AFIRS) (*hereinafter the Scheme*), in pursuance of Budget Announcement 2018-19.

1. Salient features of the Scheme

- I. The Scheme will cover short term crop loans to farmers up to a limit of Rs. 2.00 lakh sanctioned by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks & the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank.
- II. The interest subsidy shall be paid for the period starting from 1st April, 2018 onwards and the scheme will continue to be executed until further order.
- III. The prompt paying farmers shall get 4% interest subvention on short term crop loans up to a limit of Rs. 2,00,000. This Scheme will be aligned with the Government of India's Scheme under which prompt paying farmers are extended a benefit of interest subvention of 3%. Thus, the effective rate of interest for a farmer in Assam accessing short term crop loan up to a ceiling of Rs. 2,00,000 will become 0%.
- IV. Further, based on the offtake of the Scheme and also subvention extended by the Government of India, the State Government will increase / decrease the

rates of subvention ensuring that the farmers continue to get this credit at 0%.

For example, if the Government of India slashes the interest subsidy to prompt paying farmers to 2.5%, then the State Government's interest subsidy share will increase to 4.5% and if the Government of India increases the interest subsidy to prompt paying farmers to 3.5%, then the State Government's interest subsidy share will decrease to 3.5%.

2. Implementation of the Scheme

- I. State Level Bankers Committee, Assam (SLBC) is designated as the Coordinator for the purpose of implementation of the Scheme. SLBC will coordinate with NABARD, all banks/ lending institutions covered under the Scheme.
- II. In respect of the Scheme, every branch of the eligible banks/lending institution covered under this scheme shall prepare a list of beneficiaries with the following particulars.

Name of the Bank:		Branch		IFSC Code:		
Sl. No.	Name of Beneficiary	Short term crop Loan A/C No.	Total Loan Amount (in Rs.)	Total Interest Amount (in Rs.)	Total eligible Interest Relief @4% (in Rs.)	Remarks

- III. Every lending institution shall be responsible for the correctness and integrity of the lists of farmers eligible under this Scheme and the particulars of the subsidy amount in respect of each farmer.
- IV. The Branch Manager will display the above lists in his/her bank branch and sensitize the farmers regarding the Scheme so that the farmers are made aware of the same.
- V. The Branch Manager will thereafter consolidate the subsidy claim pertaining to their bank branch and send the demand to the SLBC through their Zonal Offices.
- VI. An MOU will be signed between the Govt. of Assam and SBI for opening of "Escrow Account" in the designated branch of SBI. Finance Department will sanction and release an amount of Rs. 100 crore to the "Escrow Account".
- VII. Upon receipt of requisition/ claim from the banks, SLBC will ensure credit of the eligible subsidy to the Nodal branch of individual banks within three working days with intimation to the concerned Bank. Individual bank will ensure credit to these accounts.
- VIII. Once the subsidy amount, parked in the Escrow Account falls below a minimum

threshold, for example Rs. 25 crore, SLBC will send a requisition to the Finance Department, Government of Assam for additional amounts depending upon the demand from the lending institutions.

- IX. After the reimbursement of the subsidy amounts are settled in the individual loan accounts, the Bank Manager will organize a small felicitation ceremony at the Bank Branch for the beneficiary-farmers, in the presence of the public representatives and District Administration officials.
- X. In the function, such farmers will be felicitated with a "Gamosa". A certificate regarding the credit from the Government of Assam along with a letter from the State Government will be handed over to them.
- XI. The certificate, to be signed by an authorised official of the lending institution, will mention that the loan account has been settled to the satisfaction of the lending institution and specifically mention the eligible amount, the amount paid by the farmer as his share and the subsidy amount from the Government of Assam.
- XII. SLBC will submit to the State Government a consolidated statement containing all the details mentioned in the above tables on a monthly basis.

3. Funding under the Scheme

- I. As reflected above, budgetary provisions have been made in the state government's budget 2018-19. Details of the fund flow mechanism has already been described in Para 2 (VI), (VII) & (VIII).
- II. In addition, an administrative amount, equal to 3% of the budgetary allocation, will be earmarked for meeting the administrative exigencies associated with the Scheme, viz. Cost of human resources for awareness program, Creation of portal, expenses relating to organizing the functions at the branch level, cost of Gamosa, publicity expenses etc.

4. Publicity and Awareness

- I. The success of the Scheme depends, to a large extent, upon awareness amongst the farmers.
- II. To popularise the Scheme, the Lead District Managers/ SLBC, Assam Representatives in the districts in coordination with the Deputy Commissioner, will ensure wide publicity and awareness programme amongst the farmers of the state in coordination with the Lead District Managers, District Agriculture Officer, District Development Managers (NABARD), etc. Funds will be provided by Finance Department for this programme of publicity and awareness to the concerned stakeholders.
- III. SLBC, Assam will design different creatives, leaflets, hoardings, appreciation letters etc. and submit the same for approval by the Finance Department. Subsequently, these creatives will be circulated to the various Districts, Bank

branches etc. for use in various forums for promotion of the scheme.

- IV. NABARD would issue direction to all its District Development Managers for their participation in the special campaign in coordination with LDMs and DCs of the concerned District.
- V. A copy of this scheme in Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Bodo and English shall be displayed in each branch of every lending institution covered under this Scheme.
- VI. A copy of this Scheme will be available on the websites of the Finance Department, Assam; Banks and NABARD.

5. Maintenance of Data under the Scheme

- I. SLBC will maintain all data related to the Scheme centrally in a database and also develop a dashboard regarding the scheme. SLBC will claim all expenses relating to manpower and hardware support out of the administrative expenses.

6. Grievance Redressal

- I. Branch manager of lending bank shall be Grievance Redressal Officers for each branch. The name and address of the Grievance Redressal Officer concerned shall be displayed in each branch.
- II. Any farmer who is aggrieved on the ground that his name has not been included in the list may make a representation to Grievance Redressal Officer of the concerned Branch. Such representation shall be disposed of within 15 days.

7. Audit

- I. The books of account of every lending institution that has granted the subsidy under this Scheme (including the books of accounts maintained at the branches) shall be subject to an audit in accordance with the procedure that may be prescribed subsequently.
- II. The audit may be conducted by concurrent auditors, statutory auditors or special auditors. The State Government, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so, may direct a special audit in the case of any lending institution or one or more branches of such lending institution.

8. Utilization Certificate

- I. Utilisation Certificate under the Scheme shall be furnished by banks concerned along with the statement of accounts to SLBC, Assam. The Convenor SLBC, Assam will finally submit the statement/utilization certificate to the Finance Department.

9. Interpretation and power to remove difficulties

- I. If any doubt arises on the interpretation of any paragraph of this Scheme or any

instructions issued there under, Finance Department, Government of Assam will resolve the doubt

- II. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of the Scheme or any instructions issued there under, Finance Department, Government of Assam may by order do anything which appears to it to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of removing the difficulty.

10. Monitoring

There will be a State Level Monitoring Committee comprising the following to monitor the implementation of the Scheme –

- a) Principal Secretary, Finance,
- b) Commissioner & Secretary, Finance,
- c) Director, Institutional Finance (As Member Secretary).
- d) Commissioner & secretary Agriculture,
- e) Director, Agriculture,
- f) Joint Secretary Budget,
- g) SLBC, Convener.

This Notification shall come into force with immediate effect.

SAMIR K. SINHA,
Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Finance Department.