



राष्ट्रीय बागवानी बोर्ड
कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
85, इंस्टीच्यूशनल एरिया, सेक्टर-18, गुरुग्राम-12205
National Horticulture Board
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. Of India
Plot No. 85, Sector-18, Institutional Area, Gurugram-122015

Date: 29.07.2025

Corrigendum

With reference to the EOI published on 10/07/2025 for inviting proposals for selection of Implementing Agencies (IA) for development of High-value multi commodity horticulture clusters and Peri-urban Vegetable clusters under Cluster Development Programme (CDP) of the National Horticulture Board (NHB) and the pre bid meeting was held on 25/07/2025 under the chairmanship of Mr. Priya Ranjan, Managing Director, National Horticulture Board. The queries have been addressed and appended below:

S. No.	Particulars	Query	Response
Mr. Sanjay Joshi, Director, Krushak Mitra Agro Services Pvt Ltd			
1.	Part A of the EoI - High Value Multiple-Commodity Cluster (HVMC)	Clause 1.1.4 mention that it can be an “induced cluster” wherein the IA can identify crops which are not currently cultivated in the geography. In such case how the criteria of Minimum Annual Farm Gate Value (FGV) of Rs 100 Cr of the focused crop will be worked out? (Since it is not currently practiced in large volumes)	In case of an induced cluster, the farm gate value of the focus crop needs to be minimum INR 100 cr.
2.		If the cluster is proposed for combination of multiple commodities how the Annual Farm gate value will be calculated?	Farm Gate Value (FGV) will be calculated only for the focus crop.
3.		For the acreage proposed under this part – should it be an acreage which the IA must work upon - indirectly meaning that the turnover from the proposed engagement has to cross Rs 100 Cr or should it be an acreage existing in the geography or proposed to work upon in phases over a period of say 5 years (especially for an induced cluster achieving a turnover of Rs 100 Cr will be progressive)	For the acreage proposed under this part, it should be an acreage which the IA must work upon. The farm gate value has no correlation with the turnover. Moreover, the farm gate value of the focus crop needs to be minimum INR 100 cr. Further, the project duration should be 3 years only.
4.		For the clause of contiguity of land instead of current proposition of 80	Maximum three adjoining districts are permitted.

		kms distance can it be modified as – the area can be within the 2 adjoining Districts (even in some cases of large districts land can be within same district but will exceed distance of 80kms)	
5.		The upper limit of grant is capped at 25% of the FGV. In case of induced cluster (wherein new crop is introduced) how this will be worked out?	The upper limit of grant is capped at 25% of the FGV in all cases.
6.		What is the definition of small and marginal farmers? What documents are required to be furnished to demonstrate this?	Small and marginal farmers are defined as per the land classification of GoI. Certificate from SHM / DHO / DAO needs to be provided.
7.		As regards the technical evaluation criteria of coverage of small and marginal farmers (and also subsequently for Farmer Component grant) is it mandatory to have agreements with the individual farmers and submitted along with the EoI or can be submitted with DPR? If mandatory in what form the agreement is required?	It is mandatory to have MoU / letter of association with the individual farmers along with the DPR.
8.		Can the IA enter into an agreement with the FPO instead of individual farmers and later on identify individual farmers within this FPO for disbursement of farmer component grant? (Annexure I mentions in the column of Component type as Farmers Component – to farmer / FPO)	Agreement with the FPO can be done, only if, the farmers (proposed in the EOI stage) are the members of the particular FPO.
9.		In case of joint ownership of land how the farmer component grant will be disbursed, and, in whose account, it will be credited?	If all the joint owners are part of the cluster, it will be provided to them in proportion to the land holding.
10.		For evaluating Networth, only paid-up share capital will be considered or subscription via other instruments like Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares will also be considered	Networth is calculated based on share capital and reserves and surplus. In addition, other instruments like Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares will also be considered, if applicable.
11.		What are the conditions of joint bidding? How the evaluation of	In case of joint bidding, the evaluation of financial criteria of

		financial criteria (networth, turnover, equity contribution etc) defined in the document will be evaluated in case of joint bidding? Will it be evaluated only for lead member or combination of all joint bidding entities?	all the members of the joint bidding will be evaluated for networth and turnover.
12.		It is requested to include value of GST also as part of project cost for the calculation of grant (considering that in many cases for sale of agriculture produce GST is not applicable and hence input tax credit cannot be utilised - GST becomes an additional burden in such case)	It is required to include the value of GST in the proposed project cost. However, all applicable taxes are ineligible for financial assistance in the revised guidelines.
13.		It is requested to include freight and insurance also as part of project cost for grant working – maybe restricted as some % of the basic cost say up to 5%	No change. Please refer Clause 10.2 of the revised scheme guidelines
14.		It is requested to include cost of Site development / compound wall / canteen / administrative office building for calculating grant – maybe upto 10% of the main plant cost	No change Please refer Clause 10.2 of the revised scheme guidelines
15.		Payment of statutory fees to various Govt authorities for development of the Project should be reimbursed at actuals	No change. Please refer Clause 10.2 of the revised scheme guidelines
16.		Cost of power supply paid to the distribution utility should be reimbursed at actuals	No change. Please refer Clause 10.2 of the revised scheme guidelines
17.		Will the pre-operative expenses incurred during the project completion such as fees to the Technical Consultant for preparation of DPR, Project design and management, supervision charges etc will be considered for grant purpose and if so, how much?	No change. Please refer Clause 10.2 of the revised scheme guidelines
18.	Part B - Peri Urban Vegetable Cluster (PUVC)	Will establishing an B2B supply chain for residue free / organic vegetables (wherein retail supply chain directly to consumers is optional) qualify for developing the PUVC – since in many cases bulk production and supply at the same time either fresh or value-added	No. Please refer Clause 5.2 of Part B - Peri Urban Vegetable Cluster (PUVC) of the revised scheme guidelines

		products will be difficult to get consumed in the cities closer to the cluster e.g. a cluster in a district like Nashik will always look for supply to major cities like Mumbai / Pune which are beyond 100 kms distance but major consumption centres; also Mumbai an export hub	
19.		In 1.2.1 under Mandated Crops – it is stated that cluster must have primary focus Tomato, Onion and Potato; Is it necessary that the cluster must have production of all these crops or any of these crops?	Any one of these crops will be considered, however, inclusion of all three crops is preferable.
20.		What % of Mandated Crops the proposed project is expected to be processed? Meaning can these crops be just part of the basket of produce grown and processed / supplied or need to have a specific % of the basket?	<p>Please refer Clause 5.2.5 of Part B - Peri Urban Vegetable Cluster (PUVC) of the revised scheme guidelines</p> <p>“Minimum Offtake from Farmers within Identified Cluster Boundaries: The Implementing Agency shall ensure that at least 50% of the total annual offtake of the produce for supply in the cities under the project shall be produced by the farmers within the identified cluster boundaries and mentioned as part of their Business Plan.”</p>
21.		As per policies of the Maharashtra State private entities are allowed to setup marketplaces alike APMCs. So, will the creation of a modern marketplace combined with digital tools and cost associated with the same be considered for grant purpose (provided the project proponent can demonstrate innovation / uniqueness of the same in the concept note / DPR)	No.
22.		Will the cost of setting up of MRL laboratory be considered as project component?	No.
23.		Will the cost of development of various digital tools / software / AI tools etc for development and monitoring of the cost-effective residue free cultivation be considered as project cost and what	<p>Please refer Clause 11.1 of the revised scheme guidelines for eligible components.</p> <p>“Customisation on Digital Public Infrastructure for</p>

		cost norms will be applied for calculation of the grant	Traceability, Blockchain & IoT Solutions” Also, please refer Clause 14.12 of the revised scheme guidelines “Additionally, an incentive of up to 10% of the project cost (within the upper limit of the financial assistance of 25% of FGV value) will be provided to the IA for innovative components and components not covered under any extant applicable schemes. The pattern of assistance will be limited to 50% of the cost of intervention/ activities as per actuals. This component could support innovations like import automatic weather stations, cost towards IPR on new germplasm/ varieties, big data analytics, innovation in energy saving components like use of ice-batteries, ensuring real time crop planning, customised controlled environment agriculture techniques, introduction farm mechanisation components suited to small holdings etc.”
24.		Queries 6 to 17 mentioned above in section 1 in case of HVMC are applicable for this section also	Already addressed.
Ms. Yamini Sharma, Manager, Urbane Krishi Private Limited			
25.	Implementation Agency for the development of peri-urban	Kindly provide the details of existing peri-urban vegetable clusters in Punjab and Rajasthan under the CDP.	There are no pre-defined clusters under the revised scheme guidelines.
26.	vegetable clusters under the Cluster Development	Please share the guidelines for the formation of new clusters under the CDP.	Please refer the NHB website for the revised guidelines.
27.	Programme (CDP) of NHB in the states of	Is there any minimum cost criteria for project submission under the CDP?	No.
28.	Punjab and Rajasthan	What are the evaluation parameters for acreage, productivity, and price of fruits and vegetables (FGV) in the proposed clusters?	Calculation of farm gate value (FGV) is not required in peri-urban vegetable cluster.
29.		Kindly clarify how the Implementation Agency (IA) is	Please refer the scheme guidelines.

		expected to achieve profitability under the CDP.	
30.		What is the required number of qualified/skilled personnel necessary for implementing such a project?	It is to be determined by the IA as per the project requirement.
31.		Please provide the list of documents required for submission of the Concept Note.	Please refer the scheme guidelines.
32.	Mr. Kalimuthu Boobalakrishnan, Kafco Ventures Limited		
33.		One Firm can develop / Submit EOI and be the IA for more than one Proposal - Distinctive - and Unique. Since as per New Guidelines, it is clear that No area Restriction. So, the same firm can Develop 2 or 3 Clusters Clubbing (3 or 4 Districts - Distinctive area with No Cross borders ideology).	<p>One firm can submit multiple applications at multiple locations of the country. Provided, the firm meets the combined networth and turnover criteria.</p> <p>The financial assistance for a single firm is capped at INR 100 Cr.</p> <p>All these applications should be submitted individually as a separate project.</p>
34.		<p>Also, the same company can Develop Cluster for Crop specific</p> <p>a) Crop A (Nuts) as One Cluster proposal and</p> <p>b) Crop B (Vegetables) as another Cluster Proposal</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The crops have to be listed as horticultural crops by MIDH / NHB.</p>
35.		<p>From the date of Log in we could not open the Application portal as it is showing Under Construction.</p> <p>As The Application template is exhaustive - The Online template Format if published will help to prepare in advance.</p>	Will be informed shortly.

Sd/-
Dr. Vijay Kumar Doharey
Deputy Managing Director
National Horticulture Board
Plot No. 85, Sector-18,
Gurugram- 122015 (Haryana)