

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES & HORTICULTURE
BENFISH TOWER, 4th Floor, 31 GN Block, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata -700091

No. 350 /FPIH-17014/10/2026

Date 02/09/2026

NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, the Government of West Bengal recognizes the critical need to reduce post-harvest losses of horticultural produce, and ensure remunerative prices to the farmers across the State;

AND WHEREAS, establishment of decentralized, multi-commodity cold room units near major production hubs to reduce post-harvest losses, prevent distress sales, and boost farmer incomes, is paramount to mitigating seasonal gluts and establishing an uninterrupted supply chain from farm-gate to consumer;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governor is pleased hereby to sanction the onboarding and implementation of the State Development Scheme (SDS) titled "**Assistance towards establishment of Cold Chain under SDS in West Bengal**".

This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to Individual farmers, Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs / FPCs), Individual Agri/Horti-Entrepreneurs, Cooperatives, SHG Federations, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Private Companies setting up modern cold room infrastructure within the state.

The operational guidelines and process flow governing the scheme are enclosed herewith as **Annexure-A** for general information and compliance by all concerned stakeholders subject to observance of relevant financial norms.

This guideline will be in force with immediate effect.

This has concurrence of the Finance Department, Government of West Bengal, vide U.O. No. Group B/2026-2027/0049, dated 25th August, 2026.

By order of the Governor,



Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

No. 350/1(84)/FPIH-17014/10/2026

Date 02/09/2026

Copy forwarded for kind information and necessary action to: -

1. The Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Department of Agriculture/ Agricultural Marketing/ Co-operation/ Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textiles/ Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources/ Panchayats and Rural Development/ Self Help Group and Self Employment.
2. The Principal Accountant General (A&E), Treasury Building, Kolkata-700001.
3. The Accountant General (Audit), Treasury Building, Kolkata-700001.
4. The Special Commissioner, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.
5. The Director, Directorate of Food Processing Industries, Govt. of West Bengal.
6. The Managing Director, West Bengal State Food Processing and Horticulture Development Corporation Limited.
7. The Director, Directorate of Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.
8. The Director, Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plant, Govt. of West Bengal.
9. The District Magistrate, All Districts.
10. The Convenor, State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), West Bengal.
11. The Chief General Manager, NABARD, West Bengal.
12. The Deputy Director, National Horticulture Board, Kolkata Regional Office.
13. The District Horticulture Officer, All Districts.
14. The Treasury Officer, _____.
15. The MIS-in-Charge, for uploading in the Departmental website.


Secretary

to the Government of West Bengal

No. 350/1(84)/1(3)/FPIH-17014/10/2026

Date 02/09/2026

Copy forwarded for kind information to: -

1. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.
2. The PS to Hon'ble Minister-of-State, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.
3. The Sr. PS to the Secretary, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.
4. Guard File/Office Copy.


Secretary

to the Government of West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES & HORTICULTURE

Operational Guidelines and Process Flow for "Assistance towards establishment of Cold Chain under SDS in West Bengal"

1. BACKGROUND OF THE SCHEME:

West Bengal is one of India's leading producers of horticultural crops, leading in the production of vegetables (e.g., potatoes, brinjal, cabbage) and ranking high in fruits (e.g., mangoes, pineapples, bananas). However, due to the highly perishable nature of these crops and a lack of decentralized, localized cold-chain infrastructures and other post-harvest management infrastructure, the state suffers significant post-harvest losses every year.

While traditional bulk cold storages exist primarily for potato preservation, there is a critical shortage of modern cold rooms near production hubs. Creating a seamless, temperature-controlled farm-to-market cold chain is vital to prevent distress sales, ensure year-round supply, enhance farmer incomes, and boost agri-exports from West Bengal.

2. MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- **Reduce Post-Harvest Losses:** Lower perishable crop waste significantly.
- **Promote Multi-Commodity Infrastructure:** Shift focus from single-crop bulk storage (potatoes) to multi-chamber cold units for fruits, vegetables, floriculture, and spices.
- **Establish Production Domain-level Clusters:** Facilitate Decentralized Cold Storages near major production hubs.
- **Boost Agri-Exports & Farmer Income:** Enhance quality, shelf-life, and compliance with export standards (e.g., APEDA/FSSAI compliance) to give local farmers and entrepreneurs direct access to national and international markets.
- **Private Sector Engagement:** Attract private capital, agri/horti-entrepreneurs-led investments into the state's post-harvest logistics.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOME

- **Infrastructure Growth:** Creation of decentralized cold rooms across the state.
- **Reduction of Wastage:** Direct savings of fruits and vegetables from post harvest losses.
- **Price Stabilization:** Reduction in seasonal price fluctuations for essential vegetables and seasonal fruits.
- **Rural Employment:** Direct and indirect job creation for skilled and semi-skilled rural youth in logistics, sorting, grading, and plant operations.
- **Farmer Income Increase:** Increase in net farmer realisations due to reduced spoilage and direct value-addition capabilities.

4. TARGET BENEFICIARIES OF THE SCHEME:

- Individual farmers
- Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs / FPCs)
- Individual Agri/Horti-Entrepreneurs
- Cooperatives
- SHG Federations
- Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- Private Companies

5. FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND SUBSIDY STRUCTURES FOR ELIGIBLE COMPONENTS OF THE SCHEME

Sl. No.	Description & Name	Maximum Allowable Capacity	Cost	Pattern of Assistance
1	COLD ROOM TRANSIT Beneficiary can choose any one of the four options as detailed below:			
	Option I Decentralised cold storages based on solar technologies or hybrid running on batteries, solar PV panels, microcontrollers, etc. along with ante rooms, Thermal storages (all kinds), insulation, doors, necessary civil work and refrigeration systems.	In multiples of 15 MT chamber, maximum 6 chambers allowed	₹ 26 lakh/ chamber i.e. maximum ₹ 156 lakh/ project	Bank linked frontend subsidy @ 35%
	Option II Cold rooms based on Thermal storage type where electric energy is available for 8 hrs/day (No DG Sets are allowed)		₹ 15 lakh/ chamber i.e. maximum ₹ 90 lakh/ project	
	Option III Cold rooms running on Bio-mass with either vapour absorption or adsorption technologies.		₹ 14 lakh/ chamber i.e. maximum ₹ 84 lakh/ project	
	Option IV Conventional cold rooms working on conventional refrigerants with ante rooms, insulation, doors necessary inside civil work and refrigeration systems.		₹ 7.5 lakh/ chamber i.e. maximum ₹ 45 lakh/ project	

6. PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE

Bank linked frontend subsidy @35% of the admissible project cost. The beneficiary contribution should be minimum 10% and the balance should be loan from a Bank.

7. STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF THE SCHEME COMPONENTS

Eligible components established under this scheme has to mandatorily adhere to the standard and technical specifications as par the "Engineering Guidelines & Minimum System Standards for Implementation in Cold Chain Components" published by the National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD) to be eligible to receive financial assistance.

8. DDO

DDO of the District Horticulture Office will draw the fund and will submit the UCs. Director of Horticulture, West Bengal will sub-allot the fund.

9. PROJECT AREA:

Across the State of West Bengal.

10. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING MECHANISM:

(A) State Level Monitoring Committee:

The Committee shall comprise the following members:

1. Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department – **Chairman**
2. Special Secretary/Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Senior Deputy Secretary in charge of Budget, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture Department – **Member**
3. Director of Horticulture – **Member Secretary**
4. Managing Director, West Bengal State Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corporation Limited – **Member**
5. Director of Food Processing Industries – **Member**
6. Two Technical Experts from the Directorate, as may be nominated by the Department – **Members**
7. Accounts Officer, Directorate of Horticulture – **Member**
8. Regional Officer, National Horticulture Board, Kolkata – **Member**
9. Nominee of the Department of Agriculture, not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Additional Director – **Member**
10. Nominee of the Department of Panchayats & Rural Development, not below the rank of Joint Secretary/Additional Director- **Member**

The Committee shall review implementation of the scheme, monitor physical and financial progress, issue policy directions and resolve implementation-related issues.

(B) District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee:

The Committee shall comprise the following members:

1. District Magistrate- **Chairman**
2. Addl. District Magistrate-in-charge of Horticulture - **Member**
3. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin)- **Member**
4. District Horticulture Officer - **Member Secretary**
5. Any other member as may be nominated by DM.

The Committee shall consider and approve proposals recommended by the District Horticulture Officer, monitor implementation of the scheme at district level, approve eligible cases for financial assistance and ensure transparency and timely execution of the scheme.

11. PROCESS FLOW FROM APPLICATION TO RELEASE OF SUBSIDY:

- A. Advertisement to be done for wide circulation and invitation of online application.
- B. Interested beneficiaries shall apply online and submit application form generated through online portal to the concerned Sub-Divisional Horticulture Office or District Horticulture Office through the prescribed procedure, along with requisite documents.
- C. Requisite documents to be submitted by the applicant alongwith the application:
 - (1) Know Your Customer documents e.g. Aadhaar Card, EPIC, PAN Card etc.
 - (2) (a) Certificate of Incorporation/ Registration of Organisation;
(b) Memorandum/Articles of Association, Bylaws of Society;
(c) Partnership Deed
- whichever is applicable.
 - (3) (a) Annual reports for last two years (in case of new company / organisation)
(b) Audited Statements for last two years
- whichever is applicable.
 - (4) Valid land documents in favour of the beneficiary or other legally acceptable proof of possession of the project land
(a) Registered Land purchase deed / Lease deed in case of leased land
(b) Copy of current RoR, Land Mutation and Land Character Conversion Certificate issued by Land Reforms Deptt.
- whichever is applicable.
 - (5) Financing Bank details – Account Number, IFS Code, Name of the Bank, Name of the Bank Branch with address
 - (6) Sanction letter of term loan and appraisal note from Bank
 - (7) Detailed Project Report
 - (8) Approved Plan/Map
 - (9) Quotations of prices of plant and machineries and equipments etc. required for the project
 - (10) Cold Storage Construction Permission issued by Directorate. of Agricultural Marketing, West Bengal
 - (11) Basic Data Sheet in prescribed format as per “Engineering Guidelines & Minimum System Standards for Implementation in Cold Chain Components” published by the National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD)
 - (12) Basic Information Sheet in prescribed format as per “Engineering Guidelines & Minimum System Standards for Implementation in Cold Chain Components” published by the National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD)
 - (13) Consent to Establish issued by West Bengal Pollution Control Board
 - (14) Affidavit executed on non-judicial stamp paper of not less than Rs.100/- sworn before the First Class Magistrate, affirming
(a) Non drawal of Central/State Government Grants by the applicant/ organisation’s sister concern/related company of company and details thereof
(b) and that the project for which capital investment subsidy has been prayed for, would be used solely for the horticultural produces.
- D. On receipt of the application, if found complete in all respects, the Sub-Divisional Horticulture Officer or any other Assistant Director of Horticulture (ADH) authorized by District Horticulture Officer (DHO) will conduct field verification of the land and submit a feasibility report of the project to the DHO.

- E. The DHO shall indicate recommendation on each application under this scheme and place it to the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee for approval.
- F. Computerized/online lottery (block wise) of valid applications will be done for preparation of priority list, if required, by the DHO in presence of the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee.
- G. When approved by the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee, the DHO will issue "Letter of Intent" to the applicant for commencement of the work along with a copy to the financing Bank.
- H. On receiving the copy of the "Letter of Intent" from the DHO, the financing Bank shall make necessary formalities for sending claim form to the DHO of the district to release first installment of 50% of the subsidy of the project to the subsidy reserve fund account of the borrower for setting up the project.
- I. The DHO shall place the applications along with Bank claim form before the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee for sanction and releasing first installment of 50% of the subsidy.
- J. The DHO shall release the first installment of 50% eligible subsidy amount for the project as advance in favour of the eligible beneficiary in his/her Subsidy Reserve Fund Account by drawal of fund from the Treasury through IFMS on production of approval of the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee, Sanction letter of term loan, appraisal note and claim form from financing bank, subsidy reserve fund accounts details of the bank in favour of the beneficiary.
- K. The beneficiary will intimate the DHO after completion of the project along with requisite documents.
- L. Requisite documents to be submitted by the applicant alongwith the intimation of completion of the project:
 - (1) Cold Storage License issued by Directorate of Agricultural Marketing, West Bengal.
 - (2) Certificate from Chartered Accountant verifying the investment of funds
 - (3) Consent to Operate issued by West Bengal Pollution Control Board
 - (4) Fire Fighting arrangement certificate issued by competent authority
 - (5) Certificate from Chartered Engineer regarding adoption of technical standards and protocols in the project as per NCCD guidelines
 - (6) Certificate for civil works by Chartered Engineer (Civil)
 - (7) Certificate for Plant & Machinery by Chartered Engineer (Mechanical)
 - (8) Tax Invoice of plant and machineries and equipments etc. installed in the project
 - (9) Fact sheet of the Project on letter head of Bank
 - (10) Bank certificate on the status of term loan account of the borrower as regular/not NPA
 - (11) Bank A/c Statement showing date wise details of release of Term Loan
 - (12) Disbursement/Completion of the project Certificate from Bank
- M. On receipt of requisite documents, the DHO will make a joint inspection with the concerned Bank & other Officials within 7 (seven) days of receiving intimation of completion of the project, ensure geo-tagging of the asset created and on being satisfied, a claim will be given by the financing Bank to the DHO along with the joint inspection report for releasing remaining 50% eligible subsidy amount for the project to the subsidy reserve fund account of the beneficiary.

- N. The DHO shall indicate recommendation for release of remaining 50% subsidy under this scheme and place it to the District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee for approval.
- O. The DHO will release the final installment (remaining 50%) of subsidy in favour of the eligible beneficiary in his/her Subsidy Reserve Fund Account by drawal of fund from the Treasury through IFMS on production of i) District Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee Approval, ii) Joint inspection report along with photograph of inspection iii) Geo-tagged Photograph of the project showing permanent signboard of the project along with beneficiary and iv) Claim letter from the bank for releasing final installment of subsidy.
- P. The subsidy of the State Government would be deposited in the Subsidy Reserve Fund of the bank, sanctioning the loan, against the project. If after a period of three years from the disbursement of last tranche of the loan, the beneficiary account is still standard and the project is operational, this subsidy amount would be adjusted.
- Q. During the repayment period, the beneficiary shall not alienate the components under this scheme by way of sale or lease or create any other security interest on them whatsoever. In such cases, the subsidy will be forfeited and necessary other action will be taken as per law.
- R. After completion of payment, Bank Manager of sponsoring Bank will issue an utilization report to the concerned DHO within one month of disbursement.
- S. In the cases, where the beneficiaries are found ineligible for assistance under the scheme at any stage after disbursement of first installment of the subsidy, the banks would be liable to return the subsidy amount to the Government of West Bengal within a period of one month from the date of disbursement of subsidy.
- T. The subsidy amount will be returned to the Government of West Bengal, in case the Beneficiary fails to execute the scheme with whatever components, which were considered before disbursement of loan.



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