

राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम
NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Planning and Coordination Division

NCDC: 15-2/2025-P&C

Date: 04.02.2026

Circular

Subject: Circulation of Operational Guidelines – SAHAKAR INNOVATION SCHEME (SIS) of NCDC.

The Competent Authority has approved the Operational Guidelines of the *Sahakar Innovation Scheme (SIS)*, a grant-based initiative of NCDC aimed at promoting innovation, modernization and entrepreneurship among primary cooperative societies.

2. The Scheme provides 100% grant assistance up to ₹25 lakh per cooperative to support innovative, viable and impactful projects undertaken by eligible primary cooperative societies across sectors. The Scheme also permits availing loan assistance from NCDC alongside the grant, wherever required.

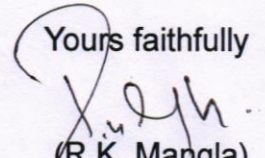
3. A copy of the approved Operational Guidelines of the *Sahakar Innovation Scheme (SIS)* is enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

All Regional Director and Divisional Heads are requested to:

- i. Facilitate awareness about the Scheme and encourage submission of viable innovative proposals; and
- ii. Undertake preliminary scrutiny of proposals received, as per the provisions of the Scheme guidelines.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully



(R.K. Mangla)

Chief Director (P&C)

Encl.: As above

Operational Guidelines for Sahakar Innovation Scheme (SIS) of NCDC

1. Introduction

There are 8.47 lakh cooperative societies in the country with a combined membership of 31.71 crore, including 0.88 lakh new cooperatives registered after the formation of the new Ministry of Cooperation in the year 2021 comprising of 1.05 crore members. This reflects the significant growth of the cooperative ecosystem in the country which needs to be supported through adequate resources. Further, a lot of emphasis has been given by the Government on Start Ups. START UP INDIA – STAND UP INDIA has been a guiding spirit towards youth and entrepreneurs.

In order to strengthen the cooperative sector and support cooperatives which are unable to avail institutional credit due to lack of collateral NCDC has introduced a "SAHAKAR INNOVATION SCHEME" to support and nurture innovative ideas emerging from cooperative institutions across the country.

The Sahakar Innovation Scheme (SIS) is a grant-based initiative of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) aimed at promoting innovation, modernization and entrepreneurship in the cooperative sector.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- 2.1 Promote innovation-driven initiatives in the cooperative sector;
- 2.3 Support early-stage and existing cooperatives with viable, scalable and impactful innovative ideas;
- 2.4 Facilitate implementation of innovative projects by cooperatives that face constraints in accessing institutional credit;
- 2.5 Enhance member participation, collective welfare and self-reliant growth of cooperatives in alignment with the National Cooperative Policy.

3. Nature and Type of Assistance

- 3.1 NCDC shall extend grants to primary cooperative societies that submit viable and innovative business plans demonstrating potential for social and economic impact.
- 3.2 The maximum grant assistance under the Scheme shall be up to ₹25 lakh per cooperative, to be decided on a case-to-case basis.
- 3.3 Assistance under the Scheme shall be provided in the form of 100% grant.
- 3.4 The quantum of grant shall be determined based on the proposed cost of the project, nature of innovation, project viability, expected outcomes, social impact and scalability.

In addition, the beneficiary is permitted to avail financial assistance in the form of a loan from NCDC, alongside the aforementioned grant.

4. Scope and Eligible Activities for Funding

The grant shall be utilized for programmes undertaken through cooperative societies as permissible under the provision of the NCDC Act and Rules under thereof.

5. Eligible Beneficiaries

- 5.1 All registered primary cooperative societies across sectors such as agriculture, dairy, fisheries, textiles, handicrafts, services etc., which are eligible for NCDC assistance, shall be entitled to apply under the Scheme.

#including FPOs/FFPOs registered under the cooperative societies Act.

- 5.2 Both existing cooperatives and newly formed/early-stage cooperatives with demonstrable innovative proposals may be considered.
- 5.3 Preference may be accorded to cooperatives promoting inclusiveness, employment generation, use of technology, sustainable practices, social impact and project related to circular economy.

6. Financial Provision

- 6.1 The Sahakar Innovation Scheme shall be implemented through the Sahakar Innovation Fund (SIF), which will be created by earmarking an amount of Rs 10 crore initially.
- 6.2 Twenty percent (20%) of the total Fund shall be reserved for cooperatives located in the North-Eastern Region and hilly areas, as well as for cooperatives representing weaker sections across the country.

7. Eligibility Conditions and Appraisal Framework

7.1 General Eligibility Conditions

- The cooperative society shall be duly registered, operational and have elected board.
- Newly registered primary cooperatives shall be operational for a minimum period of three months from the date of registration and should have a viable business plan.
- For primary cooperatives that have been operational for more than one year, the statutory audit of accounts must be completed up to the previous financial year. Where audits by Government auditors are pending, accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant shall be accepted.
- The cooperative society and its directors shall not be in default in repayment of dues to NCDC, banks or any other financial institutions.

7.2 Project Appraisal Criteria

Proposals received under the Scheme shall be appraised by NCDC with reference to the following parameters:

- 7.2.1 Degree of innovation and uniqueness of the proposal;
- 7.2.2 Technical feasibility and operational sustainability;
- 7.2.3 Financial realism and cost-effectiveness of the project;
- 7.2.4 Social, economic and environmental impact;
- 7.2.5 Managerial capability, governance structure and commitment of the cooperative;

7.2.6 Extent of member participation and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Note: Projects submitted by cooperatives without an established track record may also be considered, subject to a careful assessment of the background, capability and credibility of the promoters and management.

8. Application, Appraisal and Approval Process

- 8.1 Cooperative societies shall submit the proposal in the prescribed Common Loan Application form along with Detailed Project Report (DPR), outlining the innovation component, implementation strategy, cost estimates, timelines and expected outcomes.
- 8.2 Proposals shall undergo preliminary scrutiny for eligibility and completeness by the concerned Division/Regional Office of NCDC.
- 8.3 Eligible proposals shall be subjected to technical and financial appraisal by PSC followed by approval from the ISC.

9. Disbursement of Grant

- 9.1 Grant will be released in phased instalments, linked to achievement of prescribed milestones and physical and financial progress of the project.
- 9.2 Ways & means advance, upto 25% of the sanctioned grant, may be made after issue of sanction and fulfillment of pre-release conditions, as stipulated by the corporation.
- 9.3 Subsequent releases shall be made subject to submission of utilization certificates, progress reports and certification by a Chartered Accountant, as required.

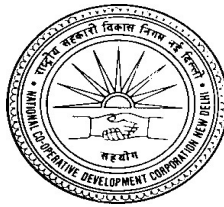
10. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

- 10.1 Beneficiary cooperatives shall submit periodic progress reports and utilization certificates in the format prescribed by NCDC.
- 10.2 NCDC shall monitor implementation of projects through desk review, field inspections and, where considered necessary, or impact assessment.
- 10.3 The performance of projects shall be assessed with reference to innovation outcomes, member benefits, employment generation and sustainability.

11. General Conditions

- 11.1 Grant assistance shall be utilized strictly for the purpose for which it is sanctioned.
- 11.2 Any diversion or misuse of funds shall render the cooperative liable for recovery of grant and such other action as deemed appropriate by NCDC.
- 11.3 Assets created under the Scheme shall not be disposed of, encumbered or transferred without prior approval of NCDC for a period specified in the sanction order.
- 11.4 A cooperative that has already been assisted under the Scheme shall not be eligible to seek further financial assistance thereunder.

**APPLICATION FORM FOR AVAILING GRANT UNDER
SAHAKAR INNOVATION SCHEME
Of
NCDC**



राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम

**NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NCDC)
4, SIRI INSTITUTIONAL AREA, HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI-110016**

General information of Cooperatives

(Rs. in lakh)

1	Name of the cooperative society						
2	Address with pincode						
3	Contact Details	Phone No.	Fax No.	Email	Website, if any		
4	Details of Board	Elected/Nominated					
		Date of Election					
		Tenure of Board					
5	No. of Directors in Board	Type	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Total
		Men					
		Women					
		Transgender					
		Total					
6	No. of Board meetings held during last Financial Year with dates						
7	Last AGM held	Date					
		No. of participating members					
8	Chief Executive of the Society	Name					
		Designation					
		Mobile No.					
		Email					
		PAN					
		Aadhaar No.					
9	No. of Employees	Category	Regular	Contractual	Seasonal	Total	
		Men					
		Women					
		Transgender					
10	Details of society	Multi State / State					
		Regd. No. & date					
		GSTIN No.					
		PAN					
		Area of operation					
11	Statutory audit completed upto						

12	Audit Classification for last 3 years	Year					
		Classification					
13	Brief of present Activities						
14	Membership as on 31/03/_____	Type	Gen	SC	ST	OBC	Total
		(i) Individual members					
		a. Men					
		b. Women					
		c. Transgender					
		Subtotal (i)					
		(ii) Societies					
		(iii) State Govt.					
		(iv) Others					
Total (i) to (iv)							
15	Authorised Share Capital						
16	Paid up share Capital as on 31/03/_____	Individuals	Societies	State Govt.	Others	Total	
17	Net worth of the society	Share Capital	Reserves excluding (depreciation + revaluation reserve + bad debts)	Accumulated Profit (+) / Loss (-)	Total		
18	Whether assisted by NCDC earlier (Yes/No)	If yes, please provide details (Purpose, NCDC release particulars & repayment status in separate sheet)					
19	Analysis of financial statements	As per prescribed format at Annexure - I.					
20	No overdues Certificate	As per prescribed format at Annexure - II					
21	Innovative Activities proposed under the project						
22	Proposed total project Cost						
23	Grant sought from NCDC						

24. Status of loans, if already availed from financing institutions including NCDC
(Rs. in lakh)

NCDC/Bank/FI/State Govt./Central Govt./any others	Loan sanctioned		Loan amount availed so far (period of Loan)	Repayments made so far	Outstanding as on _____
	Month & Year	Amount			

**25. Out of the above term loans, defaults to financial institutions including NCDC/
Banks / State Govt., if any**

NCDC/Bank/FI/ State Govt./Central Govt./ any others	Overdue amount (Rs. In lakh)				Period of default
	Principal	Interest	Others	Total	

Note: In case, the space is insufficient, details may be given in a separate sheet.

Place: _____ (Chief Executive of the Society)
Date: _____ Society Seal

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

Documents/information to be enclosed with Application form as a part of DPR

- Copy of the Registration Certificate
 - Copy of bye-laws along with its amendments, if any
 - Hindi/ English translation of byelaws in respect of objective, area of operation, membership details, authorised share capital, borrowing limit etc. in case of other regional languages.
 - *Audited Financial Statements along with all schedules for last 3 years with audit reports
 - *Annual reports for last 3 years
 - Brief bio-data of board of directors
 - If board is nominated/superseded/administered, please specify reason
 - Resolution of Board of Directors for availing financial assistance from NCDC
 - *Disbursement terms & repayment of schedule of all outstanding loans
- *If the society is newly registered i.e. less than six months old, then no need to submit Audited Accounts.**

Annexure – I**A. Summarised Profit & Loss accounts of last 3 years****(₹ in lakh)**

S. No.	Particulars	Year -	Year-	Year-
1	Business turnover			
2	Trading profit			
3	Add : Interest receipt			
4	Add: Other receipts			
5	Total Income (2+3+4)			
6	Establishment & other expenses			
7	Profit before interest, depreciation & Taxes (5-6)			
8	Less : Interest paid			
9	Cash Profit (7-8)			
10	Depreciation			
11	Profit before Tax (9-10)			
12	Income Tax			
13	Net profit (11-12)			

B. Summarised Balance Sheets as on 31st March of last 3 years

S. No.	Particulars			
14	Gross Block			
15	Depreciation			
16	Net Block (14-15)			
17	Work in progress			
18	Investments			
19	Total Fixed Assets (16+17+18)			
20	Current Assets			
	(i) Cash, bank balance & deposits			
	(ii) Inventory			
	(iii) Sundry debtors			
	(iv) Others if any			
	Total :			
21	Current Liabilities			
	(i) Short term loan			
	(ii) Sundry creditors			
	(iii) Interest payable			
	(iv) Other liabilities			
	Total :			
22	Net Working capital (20-21)			
23	Long term loans & deposits			
24	Paid up share capital			
25	Reserves (excluding depreciation, revaluation reserve & bad debts)			
26	Undistributed profits (+)/Accumulated loss (-)			
27	Net worth (24+25+26)			

NO OVERDUES CERTIFICATE (Only in case of Direct Funding)

1. This is to certify that _____ (name of the cooperative society), as on date, is not in default in repayment of loans and payment of interest to NCDC and any other Financial Institution / Bank.

OR

Position of default in repayment of dues by the cooperative society to NCDC and any other financial institution/bank as on date is as follows:

Name of Lending Institution/ Bank	Loan received		Principal repaid	Outstanding dues			
	Date	Amount		Principal		Interest	Total
				Overdue	Not yet due		

2. It is also certified that other cooperatives on which Directors of our Board are Directors or associated with, are not in default in repayment of loans and payment of interest to NCDC and any other Financial Institution / Bank as on date.

OR

Position of default in repayment of dues by the Cooperatives on which Directors of our Board are Directors or associated with, is as follows:

Name of Director	Name of defaulting cooperative society	Nature of association of the Director with the defaulting society	Name of lending Institution/ Bank	Amount of default	Reasons and period of default

(Chief Executive of the Society)
Society Seal

Place:

Date:

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable