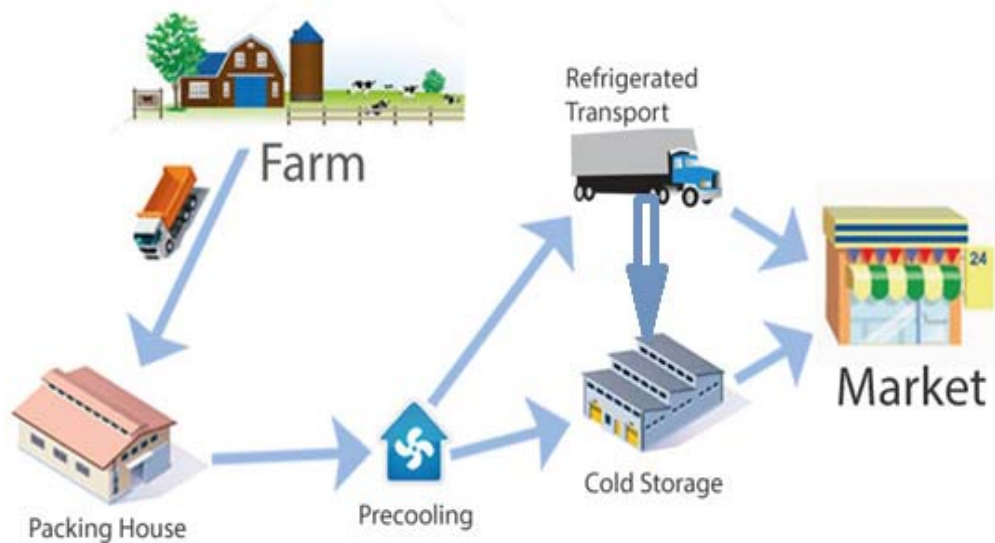


Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

COLD CHAIN

1 What is a Cold chain?

- An environmentally controlled logistics chain, ensuring uninterrupted market link from farm-gate to the consumers. It consists of refrigerated storage and distribution related activities in which the crop/produce is maintained within predetermined ambient parameters relating to temperature, humidity, etc.



2 What are the major components of Cold chain?

- ✓ Modern Pack Houses with Pre-coolers and a small cold room
- ✓ Transportation (Refrigerated / normal trucks depending on product)
- ✓ Cold Storage (Bulk) at farm gates for long term inventory
- ✓ Cold Storage (Hub) near Consumption Centres as a distribution platform
- ✓ Ripening Units

3. What is a Cold Storage?

- A frozen storage system with installed and refrigerated chamber is called cold storage. It is a large warehouse building for long term storage of bulk quantity of agricultural produce and other perishable commodities.

4. What is the difference between Cold Storage and Cold chain?

- Cold storage is a static part of Cold chain which can help in preservation of perishable commodities. On the other hand, Cold chain actually helps in marketing of those commodities at a lucrative price in distant markets which is more important for the farmers and a necessary requirement.

5. What are the advantages of Cold chain?

- i) Reduces the loss of agricultural and other perishable commodities like food, fruits & vegetables meat, meat products, seafood, etc. till it reaches the consumer.
- ii) Preserves and extends the shelf life and safeguards nutrient quality of products.
- iii) Improves domestic food supply, leads to improved nutrition and food safety, adds to farmer's income and helps in lowering market price for local population.
- iv) New jobs would be created all along the Cold chain.

6. Whether all the Cold chain components are necessary in every Cold chain project?

- No. Every Cold chain project will have components as per its own requirements. Thus, assistance can be availed for a combination of two or more Cold chain infrastructure components by a cooperative, within the prescribed norms of individual items.

7. Role of NCDC in Cold chain development?

- NCDC is a nodal agency of the Government of India for implementing schemes of various Ministries. As such, NCDC will make all efforts to avail subsidy from all the Ministries of the GOI for the benefit of cooperative Cold chain projects. However, for one Cold chain project, subsidy can be availed from one source only.
- Most of the programmes of GOI for development of Cold chain projects are credit linked back ended subsidy schemes. This means that the cooperative has to first tie-up all the loan requirements for its Cold chain programme and only then it is eligible for subsidy. Here, comes the role of nodal agencies like NCDC from which loan assistance can be availed and thereafter subsidy can be dovetailed for the project.

8. What are the schemes of NCDC for Cold chain

- Through Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) / National Horticulture Board (NHB) / National Horticulture Mission (NHM) : After tying up the loan portion, subsidy @ 35% of project cost per project in General Areas and @ 50% of project cost per project in Hilly, North East and Scheduled areas is provided for Cold chain components as given in question no. 2 above. However, higher subsidy is available for some small components, the details of which and the details of cost norms, pattern of assistance, operational guidelines, etc. may be seen at websites like www.midh.gov.in, www.nhb.gov.in.
- Through Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) : For development of Cold chain infrastructure, the quantum of subsidy

will be the same as in the case of MIDH/NHB/NHM. However, for value addition and processing infrastructure including frozen storage/ deep freezers associated and integral to the processing, grant-in-aid @ 50% for General Areas and @ 75% for North East States, Himalayan States, ITDP Areas & Islands, will be provided. Maximum grant-in-aid would be Rs. 10 crore per project.

- Under Central Sector Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) : Under CSISAC, States are not categorized as general areas and/or into hilly / North-East / scheduled areas as it is the case under MIDH/NHB/NHM/MoFPI schemes. Under CSISAC, subsidy of 15%, 20% and 25% only is available for cooperatively developed, under developed and least developed states respectively.

9. Procedure for availing financial assistance from NCDC?

- The cooperative society should prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) with all the financials and submit the same to the NCDC. The cooperative may submit its proposal either through the State Government with their guarantee or the societies which fulfil direct funding guidelines of NCDC may apply directly to NCDC for sanction of assistance. Direct funding guidelines of NCDC are available on NCDC website i.e. www.ncdc.in. If the proposal of the cooperative is found in order, technically feasible and financially viable by the NCDC, loan component for the project shall be sanctioned by NCDC. Thereafter, full guidance will be provided by the NCDC to the cooperative for their sanctioned projects in availing loan as well as subsidy.

For further guidance regarding the Cold chain programme, visit the following websites:

www.ncdc.in, www.midh.gov.in, www.nhb.gov.in, www.mofpi.nic.in.