



राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर्स समिति, पश्चिम बंगाल : STATE LEVEL BANKERS' COMMITTEE , WEST BENGAL
E-mail: slbc.westbengal@pnb.co.in
Telephone: 033-2262-7365, 033-2231-1716

United Tower, 8th Floor
11, Hemanta Basu Sarani
Kolkata- 700 001

Ref: SLBC/WB/Special Meeting/Potato Pricing/388 /2023

Date: 06.01.2023

Member Banks under SLBC, West Bengal

Minutes of the SLBC Sub-Committee meeting on Agriculture for fixing Ceiling Price of Potato for FY 2022-23 held on 05.01.2023

A meeting to finalize the Ceiling Price of Potato for financing the cold storages for on-lending to the farmers as well as financing to the farmers was held at Suchintan (4th Floor), Punjab National Bank, Kolkata Zonal office on 05.01.2023 which was hosted by Sri Shio Shankar Singh, General Manager, SLBC West Bengal. The meeting was graced by Sri Hrishikesh Mudi, Special Secretary, Agriculture Department GoWB, Sri Ashoke Kumar Das, Special Secretary, Agricultural Marketing Department GoWB, Sri Manas Dhar, Special Secretary & Director, Institutional Finance, Finance Department GoWB, Sri Samrat Mukherjee, General Manager, NABARD, Sri Debojyoti Dutta, Assitant General Manager, RBI, representatives of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association and dignitaries of the member banks.

At the outset, Sri Shio Shankar Singh welcomed all the participants in the meeting and informed the house about the process of arriving at the price of potato considering various parameters related to pre-harvest & post-harvest costs involved in cultivation and storage. The house has been informed that data on the same were collected from 11 predominantly potato growing districts, viz. Murshidabad, Purulia, Purba Bardhaman, Birbhum, Hooghly, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura, Malda, Coochbihar, Alipurduar and Jhargram through the LDMs. The house was requested to take a consensus call on the same for arriving at a uniform price for the state under the prevailing market condition. Sri S. S Singh requested Sri Manas Dhar to preside over the meeting.

Sri Ashoke Kumar Das, Special Secretary, Agri Marketing Dept. GoWB apprised the house that during storing of potato in the month of March 2022, the rate was Rs.1200-1300/ quintal but after approx. 10 months market price became Rs.700-800/ quintal. In this connection he also informed the house that in other states there are different hiring charges in different districts for cold storages, whereas it is fixed by Agri. Marketing Dept. of GoWB at Rs.170/ quintal in North Bengal stand Rs.168/ quintal in rest part of our state. He also highlighted that the Agri. Marketing Department was in process of setting up an online platform for application and renewal of license for cold storage owners.

Sri Bidhayak Mukherjee informed the house that potato cultivable area was 4.47 lakh hectare where production of potato was 124 lakh MT resulting a productivity of 27.72 ton/ ha in last FY 2021-22. This year as per their advance estimation, production is going to be increased than previous year to the tune of 32 ton/ha productivity in total 5 lakh hectare cultivable area. He also expressed his concern regarding the foggy climatic situation prevailing in the eastern side of Burdwan district which may subsequently affect the production in due course.

The representatives of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association informed that due to adverse climatic condition in the last year there was a massive decrease in potato production leading to a severe loss for the cold storage owners but considering a favorable climatic condition till date he was very much optimistic over a huge production of potato in this FY 2022-23.



After a detailed discussion guided by Sri Manas Dhar and based on the inputs received from the participants, it was assessed that the average production cost per quintal would be around Rs.612/- and the cost of post-harvest expenses, cost of storage would be around Rs.269/- for the current year. The yield per acre was assumed at around 128 quintal (including non-sorted potatoes).

Based on the discussions, the House agreed for the following item wise average cost of production:

Sl. No.	Items/ Parameters	Accepted Cost (In Rs.)	
	Yield/ Acre in Quintal		128.00
	Average Production Cost/ Quintal in Rs.		612.00
1	Cost of Bag/ Quintal in Rs		20.00
2	Cost of Assortment & Drying /Quintal in Rs		33.00
3	Cost of Loading & Transportation / Quintal in Rs		40.00
4	Cost of Unloading in Rs.		07.00
5	Storing Charge /Quintal in Rs.		169.00
	Total Cost for Storage in Rs.		269.00
	(A)Avg. Production Cost in Quintal	612.00	(B)Cost of Storage
	(B)Cost of Storage	269.00	269.00
	(C)Total Cost per Quintal (A+B)	881.00	
	Ceiling Price for Cold Storage Owners @ 30% Margin for on-lending		616.70, rounded at Rs.617/-
	Ceiling Price for Farmers @ 25% Margin for on-lending		660.75, rounded at Rs.661/-

Sri Manas Dhar apprised the house that the aforesaid pricing exercise was based on certain assumptions depending upon the present climatic situation and the same would be subjected to revision according to the ground situation prevailing at the time of harvesting as well as storing which might have either positive or negative impact on the yield of potato and the information regarding prevailing ground situation will be provided to SLBC department by the Agriculture Marketing Department GoWB, if any. It was also agreed upon that in such a scenario, re-assessment of potato price, as fixed above, would be further examined and revised rationally by convening another meeting with the committee members and representatives of the West Bengal Cold Storage Association in due course of time.

The meeting was ended with vote of thanks to the chair & participants by Sri Shio Shankar Singh, General Manager, SLBC West Bengal.



(Shio Shankar Singh)
General Manager
SLBC West Bengal.

List of Participants of SLBC Sub-Committee on Agriculture w.r.t. fixing of Ceiling Price of Potato for cold storage convened by SLBC, West Bengal on 05.01.2023 at 03.00 P.M. at Suchintan, 4th Floor, United Tower.

SI. No.	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1	Sri Hrishikesh Mudi	Special Secretary	Agriculture Dept., GoWB
2	Sri Ashoke Kumar Das	Special Secretary	Agricultural Marketing Dept., GoWB
3	Sri Manas Dhar	Special Secretary & Director	Institutional Finance, Fin. Dept. GoWB
4	Sri Samrat Mukherjee	General Manager	NABARD
5	Sri Debojyoti Dutta	Assistant General Manager	RBI
6	Sri Bidhayak Mukherjee	ADA, Evaluation	Agriculture Dept., GoWB
7	Sri Debasis Maiti	Consultant	Institutional Finance, Fin. Dept. GoWB
8	Sri Debasish Das	Asst. General Manager	State Bank of India
9	Sri Sanjay Kumar Biswas	Asst. General Manager	State Bank of India
10	Sri Sanjeev Roy	Asst. General Manager	UCO Bank
11	Sri R. Janardhanan	Chief Manager	Indian Bank
12	Sri Anwasha Baidya	Senior Manager	Bank of India
13	Sri Vishal Sinha	Senior Manager	Union Bank of india
14	Sri Tapan Kr. Dey	Regional Manger	BGVB
15	Sri Sabyasachi Ganguly	Deputy Vice President	HDFC Bank
16	Ripon Golder	Manager	ICICI Bank
17	Sri Sourav Ganguly	Area Manager	AXIS Bank
18	Sri Tarun Kanti Ghosh	Past President	WBSCA
19	Sri Patit Paban Dey	Member	WBSCA
20	Sri Vinay Kothari	Member	WBSCA
21	Sri Laxmipat Kothari	Member	WBSCA

