

## **Policy document, Bangla Shasya Bima**

This scheme is implemented with the aid of Government of West Bengal for farmers cultivating crops in West Bengal.

### **I. Objective of the Scheme**

Bangla Shasya Bima (BSB) aims at supporting sustainable production in agriculture sector by way of -

- a) providing financial support to farmers suffering crop loss/damage arising out of unforeseen events
- b) stabilizing the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.

### **II. Coverage of Farmers**

1. All farmers including sharecroppers and tenant farmers growing the notified crops in the notified areas are eligible for coverage.

#### *2. Compulsory Component*

All farmers availing Seasonal Agricultural Operations (SAO) loans from Financial Institutions (i.e. loanee farmers) for the notified crop(s) would be covered compulsorily.

#### *3. Voluntary Component*

The Scheme would be optional for the non-loanee farmers.

The non-loanee farmers opting for coverage will have to submit necessary documentary evidence of land ownership/possession viz. Records of Right (RoR) issued by LR Department, Land possession Certificate (for cultivator/oral lease /tenant /share cropper) issued by the Gram Panchayat Pradhan etc. and/ or applicable contract/ agreement details and proof of cultivation i.e. area sown certificate to be issued by the Asst. Director of Agriculture (ADA) or his representative/ Revenue Inspector of the GP.

### **III. Coverage of Crops**

- 1) Food crops (Cereals, Millets and Pulses),
- 2) Oilseeds
- 3) Annual Commercial / Horticultural crops (Jute, Potato and Sugarcane)

### **IV. Coverage of Risks and Exclusions**

1. Following stages of the crop and risks leading to crop loss are covered under the scheme.

- a) **Prevented Sowing/ Planting Risk:** Insured area is prevented from sowing/ planting due to deficit rainfall or adverse seasonal conditions
- b) **Standing Crop (Sowing to Harvesting):** Comprehensive risk insurance is provided to cover yield losses due to non- preventable risks, viz. Drought, Dry spells, Flood, Inundation, Pests and Diseases, Landslides, Natural Fire and Lightening, Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone, Typhoon, Tempest, Hurricane and Tornado.
- c) **Post-Harvest Losses:** coverage is available only up to a maximum period of two weeks from harvesting for those crops which are allowed to dry in cut and spread condition in the field after harvesting against specific perils of cyclone and cyclonic rains and unseasonal rains.

- d) **Localized Calamities:** Loss/ damage resulting from occurrence of identified localized risks of hailstorm, landslide, and Inundation affecting isolated farms in the notified area.
2. General Exclusions: Losses arising out of war and nuclear risks, malicious damage and other preventable risks shall be excluded.

The cover under the Policy, for the Insured, shall terminate in the event of claim in respect of the insured becoming admissible and the same being accepted by the Company under this section. In consequence thereof no benefit shall be payable under the Policy thereafter.

## **V. Notification**

1. Three levels of Indemnity, viz., 70%, 80% and 90% corresponding to high, moderate and low risk level of the areas shall be available for all crops. State Government in consultation with Insurance Companies shall approve indemnity levels for notified crops and areas at sub-district or district level.

2. The Average Yield of a notified crop in insurance unit (IU) will be average 5 yield of last seven years excluding up to two declared calamity years). The Threshold yield of the notified crops is equal to Average Yield multiplied by Indemnity level. Notification of calamity year(s), if any for calculation of threshold yield

### **3. Seasonality discipline**

State Government shall notify seasonality discipline for various activities under the scheme viz. submission of insurance proposals, consolidated declarations by banks, yield data, claim assessment of losses for (i) standing crop (ii) localized calamities, (iii) prevented sowing, (iv) post-harvest loss, (v) on-account payment for major calamities, etc as per the provisions of the scheme.

### **4. Notification of Automatic Weather Stations (AWS)**

For the purpose of on account payment of claims and claims for prevented sowing etc., State Government shall notify concerned weather data provider/ expert agency whose report/ methodology would be used in assessing the extent of losses and computation of payment.

### **5. Entry of data on Crop insurance portal**

The State Government will design an insurance portal for better administration and coordination amongst stakeholder, proper dissemination of information and transparency for all stakeholders. Concerned IAs will be responsible for entry of all requisite information / data as per notification issued by the state government in the crop insurance portal well in time so that information may be available in digitized form to all stakeholders. Yield data will be uploaded by the concerned Department of the State Government.

## **VI. Sum Insured /Coverage Limit**

Sum Insured per hectare for both loanee and non-loanee farmers will be same and equal to the Scale of Finance as decided by the District Level Technical Committee and notified by the Government of West Bengal. No other calculation of scale of Finance will be applicable. Sum insured for individual farmer is equal to the Scale of finance per acre multiplied by area of the notified crop proposed by the farmer for insurance. Area under cultivation shall always be expressed in acre. The conversion factor from hectare to acre will be 1Ha=2.47acre.

## **VII. Localized Risks**

### **a) Loss assessment procedure:**

#### **Time and method of reporting the loss/claims**

- i. Immediate intimation (within 48 hours) by the insured farmer to any one as detailed in (iv.a) below.
- ii. Intimation must contain details of survey number-wise insured crop and acreage affected.
- iii. Premium payment verification to be reported in next 48 hours by the farmer/ Bank.
- iv. Mobile application may be used for reporting incidents of localized risks for intimation of events including longitude/ latitude details and pictures using NRSC Mobile App.

### **Whom to be reported i.e. Channel of reporting:**

Intimation may be given within 48 hours by farmer either directly to the insurance company, concerned bank, local agriculture department government of West Bengal /district officials or through toll free number to insurance company. First mode of intimation will be centralized Toll Free Number and in absence of such facility, the report can be given to banks or Government officials, the same would be forwarded/ intimated to the insurance company immediately on receipt of such information. The banks would verify the insured details like crop insured, sum insured, premium debited and date of debit before sending the same to insurance company.

### **Documentary evidence required for claim assessment,**

- Duly filled Claim form along with all relevant documents is requisite for payment of claims. However, if information on all the columns is not readily available, semi-filled form may be sent to the insurance company and later within 7 days of the loss, filled form may be submitted.
- Evidence of crop loss through capturing pictures using mobile application, if any.
- Local Newspaper cutting to substantiate occurrence of loss event and severity of the loss, if any.

## **VIII. Procedure for Settlement of Claims to the farmers**

1. Upfront premium subsidy from Government of West Bengal, should have been received for the season, by insurance company to enable them to settle the claim.
2. In case of widespread calamity (end of season claims ), once yield data is received from Government of West Bengal as per the cut-off-dates decided, claim will be worked out as per Declarations/ proposals received from banks / channel partners insurance intermediaries for each notified area and crops and claims will be approved by Competent Authority of Insurance company i.e. Implementing Agency (IA).
3. In case of farmers covered through Financial Institution, claims shall be released only through electronic transfer, followed by hard copy containing claim particulars, to individual bank branches/ nodal banks; and banks branches/ PACs at grass root level, will credit into accounts of individual farmers within a week of receipt of funds from the Insurance companies and shall provide a certificate to the insurance companies along with list of farmers benefited. Bank Branch should also display particulars of beneficiaries on notice board and also upload the same on crop insurance portal.

4. In case of farmers covered on voluntary basis through intermediaries, payable claims will directly credited to the concerned bank accounts of insured farmers and details of the claims may also intimated to them. The list of beneficiaries may also be uploaded on the crop insurance portal immediately.
5. To facilitate settlement of prevented risk/ mid-season adversity/ localized claims ,the IA shall release the admissible claim amount to the beneficiary immediately after receipt of farmers premium and advance premium subsidy (1<sup>st</sup> instalment)without waiting for release of final subsidy (2<sup>nd</sup> instalment).
6. All admissible claims based on yield data/ post-harvest losses shall be settled by the IA on receipt of 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of premium subsidy on the basis of tentative business statistics generated. The balance premium subsidy, if any will be paid after reconciliation of all business statistics for the season.
7. In case of claims under prevented /failed sowing, localized calamities, post-harvest losses; insurance company will process the claims after assessment and shall release the claims as per procedure given in the relevant sections above.
8. Insurance companies shall resolve all the grievances of the insured farmers and stakeholders in the shortest possible time.
9. Disputed claims / sub-standard claims, if any , will be referred to the State Government within three months of claim disbursement for consideration and decision of the Government of West Bengal will be final and binding on Insurance Company /banks and the farmers.

#### **IX. Right to inspect**

If required by the Company, an agent/representative of the Company including a loss assessor or a surveyor appointed in that behalf shall in case of any loss or any circumstances that have given rise to the claim to the Insured be permitted at all reasonable times to examine into the circumstances of such loss. The Insured shall on being required so to do by the Company produce all books of accounts, receipts, documents relating to or containing entries relating to the loss or such circumstance in his possession and furnish copies of or extracts from such of them as may be required by the Company so far as they relate to such claims or will in any way assist the Company to ascertain in the correctness thereof or the liability of the Company under the Policy

#### **X. Grievance Redressal:**

1. At the initial level, for grievance redressal, each district shall designate district level Grievance Redressal Officer preferably District Agriculture Officer to respond to the grievances of Farmers, Banks, ICs etc. within 7 days of grievance. In case of dissatisfaction the matter may be brought before District Level Grievance Redressal Committee(DGRC).

2. District Level Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC):

The district Level Monitoring Committee shall act as the Grievance Redressal Committee for redressal of grievances of Farmers, Banks, Insurance Company, District Authority / Department. This Committee will be headed by District Magistrate and representatives of Farmers, LDM/Banks, DDM NABARD, Insurance Company and concerned District Authority / Department shall be appointed as members. This Committee may also invite subject Specialists/experts from University/ IMD/ commodity Boards/ Research Institutions, SRSC etc. if deemed necessary. The Committee Will be dispose the matter within 15 days. The decision of the Committee shall be accepted by all the Parties.