

Scheme for Upgradation of Post- Harvest Apple Logistics (SUPHAL)

Under Apple Mission 2030

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the primary objective of the infrastructure scheme for apple production in Uttarakhand?

Answer: The scheme aims to incentivize local private entrepreneurs to develop infrastructure such as sorting and grading units (packhouses), controlled atmosphere stores (CA stores), and goods ropeways to support apple farming in the region.

2. What is the role of Sorting and Grading Units (Packhouses) in apple production?

Answer: Sorting and Grading Units are common service centers that provide facilities for sorting, grading, packing, and loading of apples, ensuring the quality and market readiness of the produce.

3. What is the purpose of Controlled Atmosphere Stores (CA Stores) in apple production?

Answer: CA Stores are used for storing and preserving apples after harvest, extending their shelf life for up to 6-8 months. This allows apples to be sold during off-season months at premium prices.

4. How do Goods Ropeways contribute to apple production infrastructure?

Answer: Ropeways are used for transporting inputs (e.g., seeds, manure, small equipment) to orchards and for transporting apple produce from orchards that lack last-mile connectivity with motorable roads.

5. What are the estimated requirements for these infrastructure components in Uttarakhand?

Answer: The estimated requirements are given below:

- One Sorting & Grading Unit for every 1000 MT of apple production
- One Goods Ropeway for every 600 MT of apple production
- One CA Store with a capacity of 1000 MT for every 5000 MT of apple production

6. How can private entrepreneurs participate in this scheme?

Answer: Private entrepreneurs can participate by submitting proposals and engaging with the relevant authorities to develop and operate the infrastructure components outlined in the scheme.

7. Who is eligible to apply for a Sorting and Grading Unit (Packhouse)?

Answer: Applicants for a Sorting and Grading Unit can be individuals, groups, proprietorship firms, registered companies, joint ventures, partnerships, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), cooperatives, or community-based institutions.

8. What land ownership or lease documentation is required for a Sorting and Grading Unit?

Answer: To be eligible, applicants must provide proof of ownership or a 15-year lease for the minimum land required for the Sorting and Grading Unit.

9. Who is eligible to apply for a Controlled Atmosphere Store (CA Store)?

Answer: Applicants for a CA Store can be individuals, groups, proprietorship firms, registered companies, joint ventures, partnerships, FPOs, SHGs, cooperatives, or community-based institutions.

10. What land ownership or lease documentation is required for a Controlled Atmosphere Store?

Answer: To be eligible, applicants must provide proof of ownership or a 30-year lease for the minimum land required for the CA Store.

11. Who is eligible to apply for a Goods Ropeway?

Answer: Applicants for a Goods Ropeway can be individuals, groups, proprietorship firms, registered companies, joint ventures, partnerships, FPOs, SHGs, cooperatives, or community-based institutions.

12. What financial incentives are available for investors in Sorting and Grading Units (Packhouses)?

Answer: Investors can benefit from a 75% credit-linked back-ended subsidy on the maximum setup cost of INR 15 Lakh per unit for Sorting and Grading Units.

13. Are there any subsidies for Controlled Atmosphere Stores (CA Stores)?

Answer: Yes, investors in CA Stores can also receive a 75% credit-linked back-ended subsidy on the maximum setup cost, which is currently INR 20,000 per metric ton.

14. Is there financial support for Goods Ropeways as well?

Answer: Goods Ropeways investors can avail a 75% credit-linked back-ended subsidy on the maximum setup cost, which is capped at INR 15 Lakh per kilometer.

15. How is the SUPHAL initiative funded?

Answer: The SUPHAL initiative is funded through various sources, including NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and Externally Aided Projects. These sources contribute to the funding required for the project.

16. Who is the nodal implementation officer for the SUPHAL initiative?

Answer: A Mission Director will be appointed as the nodal implementation officer for SUPHAL. This individual will oversee and coordinate the implementation of the initiative.

17. Where can investors find official documentation and contact information for the SUPHAL initiative in Uttarakhand?

Answer: Investors can access official documentation and contact information for the SUPHAL initiative by reaching out to the Department of Horticulture and Food Processing in Uttarakhand or visiting their official website for the most up-to-date information and guidelines.

18. What is the purpose of the annual assessment of requirements for aggregation infrastructure?

Answer: The annual assessment aims to determine the cluster-wise additional requirement of aggregation infrastructure such as Sorting & Grading Units, CA Stores, and Ropeways based on previous year's production data census. This helps in planning and allocating resources effectively.

19. Who approves and sanctions the targets for aggregation infrastructure each year?

Answer: The targets are approved and sanctioned by the Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of Uttarakhand. These targets are then communicated to the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, UK, for implementation through concerned District/Chief Horticulture Officers.

20. How does the Department secure funds for these infrastructure projects?

Answer: The Department sends the targets under the State Action Plan to the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, to avail funds. This helps promote convergence of schemes and secure financial support to implement the infrastructure projects.

21. How can potential applicants apply for these infrastructure projects?

Answer: Applicants can apply online on the department's website each year during the duration of the Apple Mission, which spans from 2023 to 2030. They should keep an eye out for notifications issued by the Department for application details.

22. What is the selection process for applicants?

Answer: Selections will be made on a first come, first-serve basis in accordance with cluster-wise requirements sanctioned for that particular year. Eligible applicants who meet the conditions will be considered based on the order of their applications.

23. How will the projects be monitored at the district level?

Answer: Monitoring will be conducted through a district-level committee, which includes a Chairperson (Chief Development Officer or nominated representative), Member Secretary (Chief/District Horticulture Officer), Member (Chief Agriculture Officer), and Member (In-charge of respective Horticulture Mobile Team). This structure ensures proper oversight and evaluation of the projects.

24. How will the subsidy be disbursed to the selected applicants?

Answer: The subsidy will be back ended and payable in two equal installments. The first 50% of the subsidy amount will be released on completion of civil works, installation of plants and machinery, and hiring of the required technical team, as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttarakhand, and a satisfactory report by the District Level Monitoring Committee.

25. When will the remaining 50% of the subsidy amount be released?

Answer: The remaining 50% of the subsidy amount will be released after the project becomes commercially operational, following the guidelines issued by the Department of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttarakhand, and a satisfactory report by the District Level Monitoring Committee.

26. How will applicants receive the subsidy funds?

Answer: The subsidy will be credited directly to the applicant's bank account through the Direct Beneficiary Transfer (DBT) system upon the recommendation of the District Level Monitoring Team report.

27. What should applicants do in case of any concerns or issues during the subsidy disbursement process?

Answer: Applicants can address their concerns or issues to the Director of Horticulture & Food Processing, Uttarakhand.