F. No. L-16022/9/2025-GP-I-Part(1) (E:57024)
Government of India
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Kartavya Bhawan-03, New Delhi
Dated: 15th September, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Component-wise Operational Guidelines under the GOBARdhan Scheme for development of the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector-reg.

The Government of India has approved the "GOBARdhan" (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme for development of the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector with a total outlay of ₹23,731 crore for the period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.

2. The Scheme comprises six components, namely: (i) CBG Offtake Assurance Mechanism; (ii) CBG Pricing Framework; (iii) Capital Assistance; (iv) Development of Pipeline Infrastructure; (v) Credit Guarantee Support; and (vi) CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund.

3. The component-wise Operational Guidelines under the GOBARdhan Scheme are enclosed.

4. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Encls.: as above

(L. Robin)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. No.: 011-24011132

To:

1. All Central Government Ministries and Departments with a request to communicate to all HODs.
2. CEO NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi.

3. Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States and Union Territories.
4. Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.
5. Chairman and Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited.
6. Director General, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell.
7. Executive Director, Centre for High Technology with a request to upload on the CHT's website.
8. Chairperson/Managing Directors of Oil Marketing Companies and authorized City Gas Distribution entities.
9. Heads of Banks/Financial Institutions.
10. Chief Executive Officer, National Credit Guarantee Trust Company

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas.
3. Senior PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
4. PPS to Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
5. PPS to Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary (Gas), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
6. Pay and Account Officer, MoPNG
7. Director NIC, MoPNG, for uploading on the Ministry website.

Component I: Assured Offtake Mechanism for Compressed Biogas (CBG) under GOBARdhan

1. Introduction

1.1. One of the key challenges affecting the scale-up of the Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector is the lack of a strong and enforceable long-term demand assurance mechanism. Although CBG obligations have been notified for the City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector, earlier offtake arrangements depended largely on market-based procurement and reasonable endeavor provisions. This led to offtake uncertainty for CBG project developers, weakening the business case.

2. Objective

2.1. Reference is invited to the GOBARdhan Scheme, approved on August 6th, 2026. These guidelines are issued under Component I of the Scheme titled "CBG Offtake Assurance Mechanism".

2.2. The objective of these guidelines is to establish firm demand for CBG and to facilitate achievement of CBG obligations in the CNG (Transport) and PNG (Domestic) segments of the CGD sector.

2.3. In this context, the framework provides for the following:

2.3.1. Assured offtake of up to 100% of the CBG available for sale, at the option of the CBG producer, subject to technical and operational feasibility, through:

i. Mapping of CBG plants to CGD entities/ Geographical Areas; and

ii. Mapping of CBG plants to identified CBG clusters for aggregation and injection into the trunk pipelines.

2.3.2. Mandatory procurement and sale of CBG by all CGD entities within their total gas supply quantities across the CNG (Transport) and PNG (Domestic) segments, in accordance with the trajectory specified under the Compressed Biogas Obligation (CBO):

i. FY 2026-27 (FY27): 3% Compressed Biogas Obligation

ii. FY 2027-28 (FY28): 4% Compressed Biogas Obligation

iii. FY 2028-29 (FY29) onwards: 5% Compressed Biogas Obligation

The CBO may be amended as and when required, by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

2.3.3. Upon the coming into force of this Scheme, SATAT initiative administered by MoPNG shall be subsumed from 1st September 2026. Committed liabilities, if any, incurred under SATAT prior to notification of GOBARdhan, will continue to be borne and discharged.

i. Existing Retail Outlets (ROs), established under the SATAT initiative will be encouraged to be integrated under the GOBARdhan framework.

ii. CGD entities will, for the purpose of sale of CBG through such ROs, be encouraged to pursue Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO) or equivalent arrangements with the concerned Oil and Gas Marketing Company (OGMC).

iii. The terms governing utilization of Retail Outlet infrastructure, including dispensing facilities, storage, compression equipment, utilities, and associated systems, may be determined through mutual agreement on a good faith basis between the CGD entity and the concerned OGMC.

iv. Beyond the framework as above, any profit-sharing and subsequent infrastructure-sharing arrangements will be mutually decided between the CGD entity and the concerned OGMC.

3. Scope and Applicability

3.1. These guidelines apply to all CGD entities and all eligible CBG Producers registered under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

3.2. A CBG plant shall satisfy the following conditions to be eligible for the Assured Offtake Mechanism:

i. The CBG plant shall be registered on the GOBARdhan portal.

ii. The CBG plant shall be commissioned or under construction.

iii. Based on the mode of evacuation, CBG supplied under this framework will need to meet the quality requirements specified in:

a. PNGRB (Access Code for Common Carrier or Contract Carrier Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008 for trunk NGPL and its latest amendments.

b. PNGRB (Access Code for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations, 2020 for CGD network and latest amendments.

c. IS 16087: 2025: Biogas (Biomethane) – Specification (latest amendments).

iv. For injection of CBG directly into trunk pipelines through Gas Gathering Stations: Above sub paras iii(a) & iii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

v. For injection of CBG directly into CGD pipeline networks: Above sub paras iii(b) & iii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

vi. For supply of CBG through cascade at retail outlet: Above sub para iii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters.

3.3. All CBG producers requesting for assured offtake of CBG under the GOBARdhan Scheme will mandatorily install and maintain real-time SCADA-based monitoring systems for measurement of CBG quantity at purification outlet, the cascade filling point within the CBG plant boundary and/ or at the custody transfer point for pipeline injection, and will provide access to such systems and associated data to MoPNG or any designated agency.

3.4. CBG Producers requesting assured offtake shall install and maintain an online Gas Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer for measurement of output CBG quality and shall provide data access to MoPNG or any agency designated by MoPNG.

3.5. The specifications and modalities for SCADA-based monitoring systems and quality-measurement instrumentation shall be made available on the GOBARdhan portal.

3.6. An automatic interlock and shut-off system shall be installed by the CBG producer within the CBG plant premises to ensure biogas supply is within the specified quality parameters. The system shall automatically isolate the gas flow if the composition deviates from the permissible limits.

3.7. Geo-tagged images of the equipment mentioned above, from Clause 3.3 to Clause 3.6, shall mandatorily be uploaded by the CBG producer on the GOBARdhan portal, as per the prescribed format available on the portal.

3.8. CBG Producers shall enter into CGD-route offtake arrangements on either a firm basis or a reasonable-endeavours basis. Only a firm offtake arrangement executed under the Tripartite Agreement shall qualify for the Assured Offtake Mechanism. Reasonable-endeavours arrangements shall be entered into separately, subject to the applicable contractual arrangement, but shall not constitute a firm offtake commitment and shall not attract the remedies applicable to the firm-offtake route.

3.9. Assured offtake through CBG clusters and injection into trunk pipelines shall be undertaken only on a firm contractual basis. Reasonable-endeavours arrangements shall not apply to the trunk pipeline route.

4. Operational Mechanism

4.1. Assured offtake under these guidelines shall be operationalized through the following two routes:

4.1.1. Assured Offtake through the CGD Route; and

4.1.2. Assured Offtake through the Trunk Pipeline Route.

4.2. Under the CGD Route, firm offtake shall be governed by a Tripartite Agreement between the CBG Producer, the concerned CGD entity and the Synchro Operator, under the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme. The request, capacity-reservation, execution and escalation process shall be governed by Section 5.

4.3. The delivery mode for firm offtake under the CGD Route shall be determined by the concerned CGD entity in consultation with the CBG Producer, subject to applicable technical and operational feasibility.

4.4. A reasonable-endeavours arrangement under the CGD Route shall not reserve Intake Capacity, reduce Residual Intake Capacity, or affect the rights and obligations of any party under the firm-offtake route.

5. Mapping Framework and Offtake Process

5.1. Mapping Framework

5.1.1. Each CBG plant shall be mapped on the GOBARdhan portal to a primary GA, being the GA in which the CBG plant is located, and to secondary GAs, being GAs that share a geographical boundary with the primary GA.

5.1.2. An eligible CBG Producer shall submit a firm-offtake request to the CGD entity of its mapped primary GA or any of its mapped secondary GAs, in accordance with this Section.

5.2. Determination and Publication of Intake Capacity

5.2.1. The PMA shall determine the minimum Intake Capacity for each GA on the basis of the preceding quarterly average consumption of CNG (Transport) and PNG (Domestic) in that GA. The determination shall be reviewed every twelve (12) months using updated consumption data.

5.2.2. The minimum Intake Capacity of a GA shall be equivalent to fifty per cent (50%) of the preceding quarterly average consumption referred to in Clause 5.2.1, or such other level as may be determined by MoPNG on the recommendation of the PAB.

5.2.3. A CGD entity may declare an Intake Capacity higher than the minimum Intake Capacity on the GOBARdhan portal.

5.2.4. For each mapped GA, the GOBARdhan portal shall display the residual Intake Capacity available for new firm-offtake requests.

5.2.5. Residual Intake Capacity shall equal the total Intake Capacity less the aggregate quantity committed under confirmed firm Tripartite Agreements.

5.3. Firm Offtake Requests

5.3.1. A CBG Producer shall submit a request for firm offtake through the GOBARdhan portal. The quantity requested shall not exceed the lower of:

i. the maximum Daily Contract Quantity (DCQ) eligible for firm offtake over the term of the Tripartite Agreement; and

ii. the Residual Intake Capacity of the relevant GA

5.3.2. Upon submission of a firm-offtake request, the concerned CGD entity, the Synchro Operator and the PMA shall be notified through the GOBARdhan portal.

5.3.3. The concerned CGD entity shall execute the Tripartite Agreement within three (3) months from the date of the complete firm-offtake request, subject to the CBG Producer satisfying the eligibility requirements under Section 3 and the applicable conditions in the standard Tripartite Agreement.

5.3.4. Upon execution of the Tripartite Agreement, the CBG Producer shall upload the executed Agreement on the GOBARdhan portal. The Synchro Operator shall verify and confirm the executed Agreement on the portal within seven (7) days of upload.

5.3.5. Following confirmation of the executed firm Tripartite Agreement, the CBG producer shall submit nominations for supply of CBG in accordance with the nomination procedure, timelines and format specified on the GOBARdhan portal.

5.4. Reasonable Endeavours Requests

5.4.1. A CBG Producer shall submit a request through the GOBARdhan portal for offtake on a reasonable-endeavours basis.

5.4.2. A reasonable-endeavours arrangement shall not constitute a firm or minimum offtake commitment, shall not reduce Intake Capacity of a GA, and shall not attract the corrective measures specified in Clause 5.5.5.

5.4.3. A CBG Producer seeking to convert an existing reasonable-endeavours arrangement into a firm-offtake arrangement shall submit a fresh firm-offtake request under Clause 5.3. The converted arrangement shall take effect only upon execution and confirmation of the firm Tripartite Agreement.

5.5. Non-compliance with Firm Offtake Obligations

5.5.1. Where a firm Tripartite Agreement has not been executed within sixty (60) days from the date of a complete firm-offtake request, the CBG Producer may raise an Offtake Escalation through the GOBARdhan portal.

5.5.2. Upon receipt of an Offtake Escalation, the matter shall be referred to the PMA for resolution. The raising of an Offtake Escalation shall not alter the three-month execution deadline under Clause 5.3.3.

5.5.3. The PMA will endeavour to resolve an Offtake Escalation within thirty (30) days of referral. Where the matter remains unresolved, it shall be reported to the PAB with the PMA's recommendation.

5.5.4. If a CGD entity fails to execute a firm Tripartite Agreement within the period specified in Clause 5.3.3, and the CBG Producer has met the applicable eligibility and contractual conditions, the PMA shall record the non-compliance and refer the matter to the PAB.

5.5.5. On the recommendation of the PAB, MoPNG may initiate appropriate corrective measures, including rationalisation of the APM/Non-APM gas allocation of the non-compliant CGD entity by a quantity equivalent to the requested CBG quantity, or such other measures as MoPNG may deem appropriate. Any rationalisation may continue until the firm Tripartite Agreement is executed or the firm-offtake request is otherwise disposed of in accordance with these guidelines.

5.5.6. Procurement of CBG by a CGD entity in a Geographical Area shall not adversely affect the CGD entity's overall entitlement to APM Gas or New Well Gas (NWG). To the extent that CBG procurement substitutes APM Gas or NWG in such Geographical Area, an equivalent quantity of APM Gas or NWG may be made available to the CGD entity for utilisation in its other Geographical Areas.

5.5.7. The provisions of this Clause 5.5 shall apply only to non-compliance with firm-offtake obligations and shall not apply to reasonable-endeavours arrangements.

6. Contractual Framework

6.1. Assured offtake under the CGD Route shall be governed by a standard Tripartite Agreement finalised by the Synchro Operator.

6.2. The Tripartite Agreement shall provide for DCQ, Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ), Daily Nominated Quantity (DNQ) and Annual Nominated Quantity (ANQ), nomination and scheduling procedures, take-or-pay and supply-or-pay provisions, ramp-up requirements, measurement, verification, invoicing, settlement, force majeure, suspension, termination and consequences of non-compliance.

7. Assured Offtake through Trunk Pipeline Route

7.1. Assured offtake through the Trunk Pipeline Route shall be undertaken only on a firm contractual basis through a Tripartite Agreement between the CBG Producer, the Synchro Operator and the Cluster Operator designated under the Development of Pipeline Infrastructure component of the GOBARdhan Scheme.

7.2. Reasonable-endeavours arrangements shall not apply to the Trunk Pipeline Route.

7.3. Modalities on application process for trunk pipeline connectivity, cluster development, firm contractual arrangement, etc. are detailed in the Development of Pipeline Infrastructure component of GOBARdhan.

8. Institutional Framework

8.1. Project Approval Board

8.1.1. The Project Approval Board (PAB), chaired by the Secretary, MoPNG, shall be responsible for review of the CBG Obligation trajectory and assured offtake mechanism, as well as any revisions thereto.

8.1.2. The PAB shall issue directions, clarifications, or modifications as may be required for effective implementation of the Assured Offtake Mechanism, including revision of the CBG Obligation trajectory, penalty rates, nomination timelines, and Intake Capacity methodology, from time to time.

8.1.3. MoPNG shall be the competent authority for all regulatory and administrative actions.

8.2. Project Management Agency (PMA)

8.2.1. One of the key responsibilities of PMA will be to resolve offtake challenges raised by the CBG producers.

8.2.2. The PMA will engage the concerned CBG producer, the CGD entity and GAIL on a case-to-case basis, as deemed necessary for resolution of the offtake escalation.

8.2.3. The objective of the PMA shall be to find an amicable solution and ensure that offtake arrangements are put in place in a time-bound manner. The PMA may issue such directions or recommendations for consideration through PAB.

8.2.4. The PMA shall submit periodic compliance and performance reports to MoPNG at such frequency and in such format as may be directed by MoPNG, covering mapping status, supply and offtake performance, etc.

8.3. Synchro Operator (GAIL)

8.3.1. GAIL (India) Limited, designated as the Synchro Operator, shall be responsible for operationalizing CBG procurement from registered CBG producers, co-mingling of CBG with domestic gas, and supply of co-mingled gas to CGD entities in accordance with the GOBARdhan Pricing Framework.

8.3.2. The Synchro Operator shall be a party to every Tripartite Agreement executed under these guidelines and shall be responsible for payment to CBG producers.

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Appendix I

Indicative Model Contractual Framework for CGD Route

1.1. The model contractual framework set out in this Section reflect the key provisions of the Tripartite Agreement for the firm offtake of CBG.

1.2. The standard Tripartite Agreement shall be prepared and finalised by the Synchro Operator, in its capacity as the Synchro Operator, in accordance with this framework. Synchro Operator may incorporate additional provisions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this component.

1.3. The contractual framework can be suitably changed based on mutual consent between CBG producer, CGD Entity and Synchro Operator.

1.4. Daily Contract Quantity (DCQ)

1.4.1. Each Tripartite Agreement shall specify a Daily Contract Quantity (DCQ), representing the agreed daily quantity of CBG that the producer undertakes to make available and the CGD entity undertakes to offtake, expressed in MMBTU per day.

1.4.2. The Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ) shall be DCQ multiplied by the number of days in the contract year.

1.4.3. The DCQ applicable for each financial year shall be updated at the commencement of that financial year or contract year. The CBG producer shall need to update the DCQ for the relevant year on the GOBARdhan portal.

1.5. Daily Nominated Quantity (DNQ)

1.5.1. For each fortnightly Settlement Period, the CBG producer shall declare in advance the quantity of CBG proposed to be made available for sale through daily nominations on the GOBARdhan portal.

1.5.2. Nominations shall be submitted by the CBG producer no later than 30 calendar days prior to the commencement of the relevant Settlement Period.

By way of illustration, nominations for the Settlement Period of 1st to 15th of a month shall be submitted no later than the 1st of the immediately preceding month; nominations for the Settlement Period of 16th to the last day of a

month shall be submitted no later than the 16th of the immediately preceding month.

1.5.3. The Annual Nominated Quantity (ANQ) shall be the aggregate of all eligible DNQs submitted by the CBG producer across all Settlement Periods in a contract year. For this purpose, DNQ shall be counted only up to the applicable DCQ for each day, and any quantity nominated above DCQ shall be excluded from ANQ and treated on a reasonable endeavor basis.

1.6. Take or Pay (TOP) Obligation for CGD Entity

1.6.1. The CGD entity shall be subject to a Take or Pay (TOP) obligation, computed on an annual basis with reference to the Annual Nominated Quantity (ANQ), in accordance with the following ramp-up schedule:

(i) **Year 1 of the Tripartite Agreement:** No TOP obligation; The entity is not liable for shortfall in offtake against the ANQ during the first contract year.

(ii) **Year 2 of the Tripartite Agreement onwards:** TOP obligation of up to 90% of the ANQ; The entity shall be required to offtake up to 90% of the ANQ, failing which financial disincentives as specified in Clause 2.2 (and as per the Tripartite Agreement) shall apply.

1.6.2. Where the quantity of CBG actually offtaken by the CGD entity in a contract year (Year 2 onwards) falls below 90% of the ANQ, the CGD entity shall be liable to pay for the shortfall quantity at the applicable contract price as mentioned in Appendix I Clause 2.2.

1.7. Supply or Pay (SOP) Obligation for CBG Producer

1.7.1. The CBG producer shall be subject to a Supply or Pay (SOP) obligation, computed on an annual basis with reference to the Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ), in accordance with the following ramp-up schedule:

(i) **Year 1 of the Tripartite Agreement:** No SOP obligation; The producer is not liable for shortfall in supply against the ACQ during the first contract year.

(ii) **Year 2 of the Tripartite Agreement onwards:** SOP obligation of up to 50% of the ACQ; The producer shall be required to supply up to 50% of

the ACQ, failing which financial disincentives as specified in Clause 2.1 (and as per the Tripartite Agreement) shall apply.

1.7.2. The Year 1 stabilization relief under Appendix I Clause 1.7.1 is intended to allow newly commissioned plants adequate time to stabilize feedstock supply, plant operations, and gas quality.

1.7.3. Despite no SOP in year 1, nominations during Year 1 shall still be submitted, and actual supply performance shall be recorded for monitoring purposes.

1.8. Detailed Provisions

1.8.1. The detailed operational provisions governing DCQ determination, DNQ submission, TOP and SOP computation, and financial disincentives for non-compliance shall form part of the Tripartite Agreement to be finalized by the Synchro Operator.

1.8.2. The Synchro Operator shall revise the Tripartite Agreement, including the TOP and SOP thresholds and ramp-up schedule, from time to time based on scheme performance and feedback, with approval from PAB.

2. Enforcement Framework

2.1. Producer-side Non-Compliance

2.1.1. Failure by the CBG producer to meet the applicable SOP obligation shall constitute producer-side non-compliance. The CBG producer shall be liable to pay a financial disincentive for the Producer Shortfall to the offtaker, calculated on a per MMBTU basis as follows:

Financial Disincentive = Producer Shortfall (in MMBTU) × Penalty Rate (₹/MMBTU)

2.1.2. The Penalty Rate shall be equivalent to 10% of the prevailing Administered CBG Price (ACP), or such other rate as may be specified by the Synchro Operator, with approval of PAB, from time to time.

2.1.3. No financial disincentive shall be applicable to the CBG producer in Year 1 of the Tripartite Agreement, in accordance with the stabilization relief provided.

2.2. Offtaker-side Non-Compliance

2.2.1. Failure by the offtaker to meet the TOP obligation of 90% of the ANQ specified under Appendix I Clause 1.6 in any contract year from Year 2 onwards shall constitute offtaker-side non-compliance. The Offtaker shall be liable to pay a financial disincentive for the CGD Shortfall, calculated on a per MMBTU basis as follows:

Financial Disincentive = Offtaker Shortfall (in MMBTU) × Penalty Rate (₹/MMBTU)

where the Penalty Rate shall be equivalent to the prevailing APM base price plus the applicable Price Adjustment Factor, expressed in ₹/MMBTU, or such other rate as may be specified by the Synchro Operator, with approval of PAB, from time to time.

2.2.2. No financial disincentive shall be applicable to the Offtaker in Year 1 of the Tripartite Agreement.

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Component II: Pricing Framework for Compressed Biogas (CBG) under GOBARdhan

1. Introduction

1.1. Unlike conventional hydrocarbons, the cost structure of Compressed Biogas (CBG) production is largely independent of global fuel prices and is primarily driven by feedstock costs, power tariffs, and other plant operational and capital expenses. Linking CBG prices to the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) therefore introduces volatility and uncertainty in project revenues.

1.2. Reference is invited to the GOBARdhan Scheme approved on August 6th, 2026. These guidelines are issued under Component II of the Scheme titled "CBG Pricing Framework".

2. Objective

2.1. The objective of these guidelines is to establish a stable pricing framework for procurement and supply of CBG, in order to support large-scale integration of CBG into India's natural gas ecosystem while ensuring commercial viability and long-term bankability of CBG projects.

2.2. The framework is intended to ensure that CBG producers receive stable price realization for supply of CBG, while ensuring affordable CBG procurement by downstream entities through Government support and an appropriate cost-sharing mechanism across domestic gas consuming sectors.

2.3. In this framework, Biogas and CBG may be used interchangeably wherever there is a reference to CBG as a commodity.

2.4. In this context, the framework provides for the following:

2.4.1. Administered CBG Price (ACP) for biogas/ biomethane as defined under Clause 3.1.1;

2.4.2. CBG Affordability Support by the Government to the Synchro Operator (Entity operationalizing the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme and supplying Biogas/ CBG co-mingled with domestic gas); and Cost-Sharing Mechanism across domestic gas consuming sectors.

2.5. The ACP includes an incentive component for the sale of by-products of CBG plant, including Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)/ Liquid FOM (LFOM). Accordingly, the

responsibility for the sale of by-products of the CBG plant and ensuring their appropriate and beneficial utilization will rest with the CBG producer. Disposal of by-products in an unscientific or environmentally non-compliant manner will not be permitted. Any expenditure that is incurred in this regard will be borne by the CBG producer.

2.6. Upon the coming into force of this Scheme, Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme administered by the Department of Fertilizers (DoF) shall be subsumed from 1st September 2026. All committed liabilities arising out of or in connection with MDA scheme will be borne solely by DoF and will not be covered under this component.

2.7. CBG Producers availing benefits under the Pricing Framework shall mandatorily submit on the GOBARdhan portal, on a quarterly basis, a CA-certified statement detailing the quantities sold, sale prices, and utilization of by-products of the CBG plant, along with details of feedstock procurement and prices paid. Failure to submit such information may result in MoPNG taking appropriate corrective action, including suspension or withdrawal of the ACP benefit.

2.8. Under the GOBARdhan Scheme, GAIL (India) Limited is designated as the Synchro Operator for procurement, pooling of CBG, and operationalization of CBG-CGD Synchronization scheme, unless otherwise notified by MoPNG.

3. Administered CBG Price (ACP)

3.1. Scope and Eligibility

3.1.1. The provisions under this sub-component will govern the Administered CBG Price (ACP) payable by the Synchro Operator to eligible CBG producers, subject to fulfilment of the following criteria:

i. CBG plants will be registered on the GOBARdhan portal.

ii. Based on the mode of evacuation, CBG supplied will meet the quality requirements specified in:

a) PNGRB (Access Code for Common Carrier or Contract Carrier Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008 for trunk NGPL and its latest amendments.
b) PNGRB (Access Code for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations, 2020 for CGD network and latest amendments.
c) IS 16087: 2025: Biogas (Biomethane) – Specification (latest amendments).

iii. For injection of CBG directly into trunk pipelines through Gas Gathering Stations: Above sub paras ii(a) & ii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

iv. For injection of CBG directly into CGD pipeline networks: Above sub paras ii(b) & ii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

v. For supply of CBG through cascade at retail outlet: Above sub para ii(c) shall be applicable for quality parameters.

vi. CBG sale will be governed through a contractual arrangement finalized by Synchro Operator.

3.1.2. All CBG producers will mandatorily install and maintain real-time SCADA-based monitoring systems for measurement of CBG quantity at the cascade filling point within the CBG plant boundary and/ or at the custody transfer point for pipeline injection, and will provide access to such systems and associated data to MoPNG or any designated agency.

3.1.3. All CBG producers will further mandatorily install and maintain an online Gas Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer for measurement of output CBG quality, and will provide data access to MoPNG, Synchro Operator or any other designated agency.

3.1.4. The specifications and modalities for SCADA-based monitoring systems and quality measurement instrumentation (Online Gas Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer) will be made available on the GOBARdhan Portal.

3.1.5. An automatic interlock and shut-off system shall be installed by the CBG producer within the CBG plant premises to ensure biogas supply is within the specified quality parameters. The system shall automatically isolate the gas flow to cascade and/ or pipeline network, if the composition deviates from the permissible limits.

3.1.6. Geo-tagged images of the equipment mentioned above, from Clause 3.1.2 to Clause 3.1.5, shall mandatorily be uploaded by the CBG producer on the GOBARdhan portal, as per the prescribed format available on the portal.

3.1.7. CBG projects that procure raw biogas from third parties and undertake only its purification, upgrading, compression, bottling, or dispensing into CBG, shall be ineligible to receive ACP benefit under the CBG Pricing Framework of the GOBARdhan Scheme.

3.1.8. CBG producers, who meet all the eligibility clauses from 3.1.1 to 3.1.6, and whose eligibility is verified by the Project Management Agency of the GOBARdhan Scheme, will become eligible to avail the ACP benefit under this Pricing Framework.

3.1.9. CBG producers, who are not eligible under the GOBARdhan Pricing Framework, may receive the price under the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme, subject to compliance with quality specifications as per Clause 3.1.1.

3.1.10. SCADA upkeep shall be the responsibility of the CBG Producer. If any issue with the SCADA-based monitoring system is not rectified within seven (7) days, the Synchro operator shall have the right to withdraw the ACP benefit until rectification of the SCADA system. During this period, the CBG Producer shall receive the applicable price under the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme, in accordance with Clause 3.1.9.

3.1.11. Transition Mechanism for Availing ACP

i. A CBG producer seeking to avail the Administered CBG Price (ACP) shall submit a request through the GOBARdhan portal confirming compliance with all eligibility conditions specified under Clauses 3.1.1 to 3.1.6 with necessary supporting documents.

ii. The Synchro Operator shall undertake the necessary scrutiny and may seek additional documents or information, conduct a physical site visit, obtain recommendations from the relevant CGD entity, or use any other appropriate means of verification, and shall record its decision on the portal.

iii. Upon approval by Synchro Operator, the CBG producer shall become eligible to receive the Administered CBG Price (ACP) with effect from the commencement of the next 15-day billing cycle.

3.2. Pricing Structure

3.2.1. The ACP shall initially be ₹2,110 per MMBTU (equivalent to approximately ₹98 per kg of CBG at 95% methane content), excluding applicable taxes and compression charges.

3.2.2. The ACP shall be paid to CBG producers based on the quantity of CBG measured at the custody transfer point. In the case of trunk pipeline connectivity through cluster infrastructure, the custody transfer point shall be located at the point of pipeline injection at CBG plant. In the case of cascade-

based transportation for trunk pipeline infrastructure, the custody transfer point shall be the Decompression Unit (DCU) injection point.

3.2.3. The transportation by cascade from CBG plant to CGD network will be separately compensated to CBG producer by the CGD entity.

3.3. Price Notification and Revision

3.3.1. The Project Approval Board (PAB) will determine the ACP for each 12-month period. However, in circumstances considered relevant by the PAB, the PAB may convene a meeting to review and revise the applicable ACP, as required.

3.3.2. The ACP will be notified by the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) from time to time, as directed by the PAB.

3.3.3. The ACP may remain unchanged or be revised annually, or as deemed necessary, based on factors such as CBG production economics, the prevailing Consumer Price Index (CPI), or any other factor as determined by the PAB.

3.3.4. The ACP will be in place for a minimum period of ten years (till 31st March 2036) or later as determined by MoPNG.

3.3.5. Any revision in ACP will be notified prospectively and will apply from the date specified in such notification.

4. CBG Affordability Support by the Government to the Synchro Operator

4.1. CBG Affordability Support shall be provided by the Government of India to the designated Synchro Operator as one of the funding sources for payment of ACP under this framework.

4.2. The CBG Affordability Support shall remain in place for a ten-year period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 and shall be capped at ₹10 per kg (equivalent to ₹215.31 per MMBTU) of CBG procured.

4.3. The per unit Affordability Support shall be determined annually, or as deemed necessary, by the Project Approval Board.

5. Institutional Framework

5.1. Project Approval Board (PAB)

5.1.1. The Project Approval Board (PAB), chaired by the Secretary, MoPNG, will function under the Ministry and will be responsible for review and approval of the Administered CBG Price (ACP) under Section 3 as well as the CBG Affordability Support to the Synchro Operator under Section 4.

5.1.2. The PAB may issue directions, clarifications or modifications as may be required for effective implementation of the pricing framework.

5.2. Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC)

5.2.1. The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) will notify the ACP and revisions thereto, as directed by PAB.

5.2.2. PPAC shall collect CNG RSP data from all authorized CGD GAs in India, compute the weighted average CNG RSP, and place the same before the Project Approval Board for determination of CBG Affordability Support.

5.2.3. Based on PPAC's recommendation, MoPNG will disburse affordability support to Synchro Operator.

5.2.4. PPAC will support MoPNG in monitoring, reporting, and implementation of the pricing framework, and in such other capacity as may be designated by MoPNG.

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Component III: Capital Assistance for Compressed Biogas (CBG) Projects under GOBARdhan

1. Introduction

1.1. Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects are characterized by high capital requirements, driven by investment in feedstock aggregation and pre-treatment, digester systems, gas upgrading and purification units, compression equipment, storage and handling infrastructure. These guidelines intend to provide assistance to CBG producers against the capital expenditure needs.

2. Objective

2.1. Reference is invited to the GOBARdhan Scheme approved on August 6th, 2026. These guidelines are issued under Component III of the Scheme titled "Capital Assistance".

2.2. The Capital Assistance (CA) component aims to reduce the capital expenditure burden associated with establishment of CBG projects by:

2.2.1. Providing support for establishment of CBG plant; and

2.2.2. Providing support towards procurement of feedstock aggregation machinery, organic manure value addition machinery, and other relevant equipment.

2.3. Financial support will be provided under two categories (referred to as Sub-Component I and Sub-Component II respectively throughout these guidelines):

2.3.1. **Sub-Component I:** CA for establishment of CBG plant; and

2.3.2. **Sub-Component II:** CA for Feedstock Aggregation and Organic Manure Value Addition Machinery.

2.4. The maximum aggregate Capital Assistance admissible across both sub-components shall be ₹30 crore per CBG project.

2.5. Upon the coming into force of this Scheme, Central Financial Assistance (CFA) for CBG plants under the Waste to Energy Programme administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) scheme administered by MoPNG shall be subsumed from 1st September 2026.

2.6. All committed liabilities arising out of or in connection with CFA for CBG plants under Waste to Energy Programme administered by the MNRE or BAM scheme administered by MoPNG will be borne solely by MNRE and MoPNG respectively and will not be covered under this component.

3. Scope and Eligibility

3.1. CA will be provided to eligible CBG projects registered on the GOBARdhan portal, for commissioning of plants for generation of CBG. The Capital Assistance will cover:

3.1.1. Establishment of new greenfield CBG projects that have been commissioned after the date of notification of the GOBARdhan Scheme; and

3.1.2. Grant to brownfield CBG projects which intend to add CBG production capacity, by way of installation of new plant and machinery. Such assistance will be limited to the incremental CBG capacity that is commissioned after the date of notification of the GOBARdhan Scheme.

3.2. For the purposes of Clauses 3.1.1 and 3.1.2, "commissioned" shall mean the first commercial sale of CBG after the date of notification of the GOBARdhan Scheme.

3.3. CBG plants satisfying the requirements under Clause 3.1 that have availed or received sanction under the Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme of MoPNG will remain eligible for CA under this component. CA for sub-component-II for such plants will be provided net of the BAM subsidy amount already sanctioned or released.

3.4. Only plants installed with new equipment/ machinery will be eligible for CA under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

3.5. All CBG producers availing CA under the GOBARdhan Scheme will mandatorily install and maintain real-time SCADA-based monitoring systems for measurement of CBG quantity at the purification outlet, the cascade filling point within the CBG plant boundary and/ or at the custody transfer point for pipeline injection, and will provide access to such systems and associated data to MoPNG or any designated agency.

3.6. All CBG producers availing CA under the GOBARdhan Scheme will further mandatorily install and maintain an online Gas Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer for measurement of output CBG quality and will provide data access to MoPNG or any designated agency.

3.7. The specifications and modalities for SCADA-based monitoring systems and quality measurement instrumentation (Online Gas Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer) will be made available on the GOBARdhan Portal.

3.8. An automatic interlock and shut-off system shall be installed by the CBG producer within the CBG plant premises to ensure biogas supply is within the specified quality parameters. The system shall automatically isolate the gas flow to cascade and/ or pipeline network, if the composition deviates from the permissible limits.

3.9. Geo-tagged images of the equipment mentioned above, from Clause 3.5 to Clause 3.8, shall mandatorily be uploaded by the CBG producer on the GOBARdhan portal, as per the prescribed format available on the portal.

3.10. Projects predominantly based on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)/ Sewage Waste will not be eligible under this component. Such projects may be supported separately under the applicable schemes of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

3.11. For the purposes of Clause 3.10, a project shall be treated as predominantly based on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)/ Sewage Waste where at least 50% of the total feedstock used for CBG production is derived from MSW/ Sewage Waste.

3.12. CBG projects based on predominantly liquid or predominantly gaseous feedstocks, and projects that procure raw biogas from third parties and undertake only purification, upgrading, compression, bottling, or dispensing into CBG shall be ineligible to receive Capital Assistance under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

However, where the owner and operator of an existing biogas plant undertake the upgradation of its own plant to produce CBG, including through purification, compression, bottling, or dispensing, such project shall remain eligible for Capital Assistance under Clause 4.4.

3.13. CBG projects that have received or been sanctioned any other form of capital support from any Central Government scheme for establishment of CBG plant shall not be eligible for CA under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

4. Sub-Component I: Capital Assistance for establishment of CBG plant

4.1. CA under this sub-component shall be provided as capacity-linked support for establishment of CBG plant based on the eligible installed capacity of Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant at the rate of **₹1.25 crore per TPD**.

4.2. In the case of brownfield CBG projects, CA will be admissible at 50% of the applicable rate under Clause 4.1 only in respect of the additional CBG capacity created through fresh capital expenditure.

4.3. Projects located in Special Category areas (North-Eastern States and Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) will be eligible for additional capital support of 20% over and above the applicable assistance under Clause 4.1.

4.4. Where an existing biogas plant owned and operated by the applicant is upgraded to produce CBG, CA shall be admissible at ₹0.60 crore per TPD of eligible CBG capacity, subject to a maximum of ₹5 crore per project.

4.5. CA under this sub-component will be disbursed in three tranches, linked to project implementation and performance milestones, as follows:

Milestone	CA Release	Condition/ Document
Milestone 1: Consent to Establish (CTE)/ Relevant PESO approval	25% of admissible CA	i. Consent to Establish from SPCB/ PCC or relevant approval/ license from PESO, as applicable; ii. Equivalent Bank Guarantee (BG) valid for 48 months from issue date, extendable as required by PMA
Milestone 2: First sale of CBG	25% of admissible CA	i. First sale report supported by invoice issued (as per Appendix I); ii. Equivalent Bank Guarantee (BG) valid for 24 months from issue date, extendable as required by PMA
Milestone 3: Performance Testing	Balance 50% of admissible CA, based on performance	i. Operation of the CBG plant for a minimum of 3 consecutive months; ii. Continuous operation for at least 24 hours, and achievement of PLF as mentioned below.

Achievement of average PLF over cumulative 24-hour period	% of Third Tranche of CA
>= 75%	100%

>= 50% and < 75%	Pro-rata
< 50%	0% (All Bank Guarantees submitted will be encashed)

For illustration purposes, if PLF = 70%,

% of Third Tranche of CA to be disbursed = [(70% - 50%) / (75% - 50%)] = 80% of Third Tranche of CA.

Any entity can apply only once for third tranche within the applicable period.

Where a CBG producer has not availed an earlier tranche, it may apply for release of the unavailed tranche together with the immediately succeeding tranche or the third tranche.

4.6. Procedure for Availing Capital Assistance under Sub-Component I

4.6.1. The CBG project developer will be able to apply for In-Principle Approval of CA after submitting the Consent to Establish (CTE) issued by the concerned SPCB/ PCC, or relevant approval/ license from PESO, as applicable, on the GOBARdhan portal. The last date for submitting the applications under these guidelines shall be 31.12.2030.

4.6.2. Brownfield expansion projects will follow the same application, appraisal, approval, and disbursement process as greenfield projects, subject to assessment of incremental CBG capacity and compliance with the eligibility criteria as mentioned under Section 3.

4.6.3. The applicant will have to submit the documents below at the time of application for In-Principle Approval:

i. Detailed Project Report (DPR), in the format set out in Appendix II;

ii. Consent to Establish from SPCB/ PCC or relevant approval/ license from PESO, as applicable;

iii. Self-certification (in case of self-financed projects) in the format set out in Appendix III;

iv. Self-certification regarding non-availment of Central Financial Assistance from MNRE schemes/ any other scheme for supporting the establishment of CBG plant in the format set out in Appendix IV;

v. Self-certification stating whether the applicant has availed the Credit Guarantee component under GOBARdhan and documentary evidence of guarantee approval generated through or obtained from the JanSamarth Portal.

vi. Loan sanction letter, in case loan has been availed; and

vii. Financial Closure report on the letter head of the applicant.

4.6.4. The Project Management Agency (PMA) will undertake scrutiny of the application, within thirty (30) days from the last day of month in which the application is submitted.

4.6.5. In case of incomplete submissions, the PMA may seek clarifications through the portal. The applicant will respond within 15 days, failing which the application may be liable for rejection.

4.6.6. Applications found complete will be placed before the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) for appraisal.

4.6.7. The PAC will appraise applications for CA in accordance with these guidelines.

4.6.8. The PAC may recommend any further scrutiny (additional documents, physical verification, etc.) to be undertaken by the PMA.

4.6.9. Based on its appraisal, the PAC will recommend eligible projects, along with the admissible CA quantum, to the Project Approval Board (PAB).

4.6.10. The PAB will consider the recommendations of the PAC and approve eligible projects under the Scheme.

4.6.11. An In-Principle Approval Letter specifying the following parameters will be issued and communicated to the applicant by the PMA through the GOBARdhan portal:

i. Approved project capacity in case of greenfield projects;

ii. Approved incremental CBG capacity in case of brownfield projects; and

iii. The approved Capital Assistance amount under Sub-Component I.

4.6.12. The CBG Producer may apply for release of the first tranche of CA upon submission of Bank Guarantee (BG) equivalent to the first admissible tranche of CA. Such BG shall be valid for a period of 48 months from the date of issue, and be extendable as required by the PMA.

4.6.13. After verification of the BG, the PMA will submit the proposal along with recommendation for release of first tranche of CA to MoPNG.

4.6.14. MoPNG shall process the proposal and, after due approval, release the funds to the Central Nodal Agency (CNA), which shall release the assistance amount into the beneficiary's account within two weeks of receipt of funds.

4.6.15. The CBG Producer shall achieve the first sale of CBG and submit the prescribed first sale report on the GOBARdhan Portal within eighteen (18) months from the date of issue of the In-Principle Approval, irrespective of whether the CBG Producer applies for release of the second tranche of CA.

4.6.16. The first sale report shall be supported by the applicable sale invoice and such other documents as may be specified by the PMA.

4.6.17. The PAB may extend the timeline specified under Clause 4.6.15 where the delay is due to reasons not attributable to the CBG Producer, subject to the CBG Producer submitting a request, together with reasons and supporting documents, at least thirty (30) days before the applicable deadline.

4.6.18. Where the CBG Producer fails to submit the first sale report within the applicable timeline, including any extension approved by the PAB, MoPNG may revoke the In-Principle Approval and encash the Bank Guarantee submitted for release of the first tranche, if any.

4.6.19. After submission of the first sale report, the CBG Producer may apply for release of the second tranche of CA. The application shall be accompanied by:

i. Consent to Operate (CTO), applicable PESO license, or self-certification regarding intimation for CTO, as applicable;

ii. the loan sanction letter or self-certification for self-financed projects, where the applicable document was not submitted at the time of application for In-Principle Approval/ where the financing mode has changed after application; and

iii. a Bank Guarantee equivalent to the admissible second tranche of CA, valid for twenty-four (24) months from the date of issue and extendable as required by the PMA

4.6.20. The second tranche, equivalent to twenty-five per cent of the admissible CA, shall be released upon verification of the first sale report, supporting documents, applicable approvals, Bank Guarantee and SCADA-based production data from the CBG plant.

4.6.21. After satisfactory verification, the PMA shall submit its recommendation for release of the second tranche to MoPNG.

4.6.22. MoPNG shall process the recommendation and, after due approval, release the funds to the Central Nodal Agency, which shall release the assistance into the beneficiary's account within two weeks of receiving the funds.

4.6.23. For application for third tranche of CA, the CBG producer will raise a request on the GOBARdhan Portal. The PMA may assess the 24-hour performance as per clause 4.6.27.

4.6.24. The PMA will verify plant operations for at least three consecutive months using the data points specified under Clause 4.6.27.

4.6.25. To remain eligible for final release of CA, the CBG Producer will need to achieve the performance milestone within eighteen (18) months from the date of submission of first sale report. The PAB may extend the timeline for achieving the performance milestone where delay is due to reasons not attributable to the CBG Producer, subject to prior intimation by the CBG producer 30 days before the deadline.

4.6.26. In case the CBG producer does not adhere to the timeline as per Clause 4.6.25, the Bank Guarantees submitted will be encashed by MoPNG. Failure of the CBG producer to achieve the minimum 24-hour PLF milestone will also result in the Bank Guarantees being encashed.

4.6.27. The PMA will assess the PLF achievement using the below parameters:

i. SCADA-based CBG production volumes at purification outlet;

ii. CBG volumes sold using joint-ticketing data; and

iii. Site visit to the CBG plant, if deemed necessary by PMA.

4.6.28. After assessment of plant performance, the PMA will submit the proposal along with recommendation for release of the final tranche of CA to MoPNG. MoPNG shall process the proposal and release funds in accordance with the guidelines. The BGs submitted shall also be released with the funds.

4.6.29. In case the CBG producer has not availed the first or second tranche of CA and applies for release of CA only after achievement of the performance milestone, the earlier tranche shall be released upon submission and verification of the required documents. The final admissible CA shall be determined and released based on achievement of the applicable PLF milestone.

5. Sub-Component II: Capital Assistance for Feedstock Aggregation and Organic Manure Value Addition Machinery

5.1. Capital Assistance under this sub-component shall be provided as reimbursement of actual expenditure incurred towards procurement of eligible feedstock aggregation machinery, organic manure value addition machinery, and such other eligible equipment as specified in Appendix V.

5.2. Assistance under this sub-component shall be limited to 50% of the actual eligible procurement cost, subject to a maximum of **₹0.75 crore per TPD** of the eligible CBG plant capacity approved under Sub-Component I.

5.3. The PMA, with the approval of the PAB, shall publish indicative cost norms on the GOBARdhan portal for the machinery and equipment specified in Appendix V. Such cost norms may be revised from time to time by MoPNG.

5.4. The CBG Producer shall apply under this sub-component through the GOBARdhan Portal, specifying the type, number and estimated procurement cost of each item of machinery or equipment proposed to be procured. The applicant shall also submit a self-certification in the format specified in Appendix VI, disclosing the amount of support, if any, sanctioned or released under the Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme of MoPNG.

5.5. Where support has been sanctioned or released under the BAM Scheme for the same project, the admissible Capital Assistance under this sub-component shall be reduced by the amount of BAM support sanctioned for such project.

5.6. The application shall be appraised with reference to the lower of the estimated procurement cost submitted by the applicant and the applicable cost norm published

on the GOBARdhan Portal. The type and number of machinery shall also be rationalized based on the plant configuration and capacity. The decision of MoPNG on the admissible quantity and amount of assistance shall be final

5.7. Machinery or equipment not included in Appendix V may be considered on a case-by-case basis where the applicant demonstrates that it is directly related to feedstock aggregation or organic manure value addition. The application shall include detailed technical justification, the proposed quantity and estimated cost, and shall be subject to appraisal by the PMA and approval by the PAB.

5.8. In the case of brownfield CBG projects, Capital Assistance under this sub-component shall not be admissible.

5.9. Procedure for Availing Capital Assistance under Sub-Component II

5.9.1. After obtaining Consent to Operate (CTO)/ relevant PESO license/ self-certification regarding intimation of CTO, as applicable, the CBG Producer may apply for In-Principle Approval under this sub-component.

5.9.2. At the time of application for In-Principle Approval under Sub-Component II, the CBG Producer shall submit a tentative list of eligible feedstock aggregation machinery, organic manure value addition machinery, and other eligible equipment proposed to be procured under this sub-component, together with indicative cost estimates, as per the list specified in Appendix V.

5.9.3. The Project Management Agency (PMA) will undertake scrutiny of the application, within thirty (30) days from the last day of the month in which the application is submitted.

5.9.4. Applications found complete shall be placed before the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) for appraisal.

5.9.5. The PAC shall appraise the proposal and recommend the maximum admissible CA under this sub-component to the Project Approval Board (PAB), based on the indicative cost estimates submitted by the applicant, notified cost norms as per Clause 5.3, and the limits prescribed under these Guidelines.

5.9.6. The PAB shall consider the recommendations of the PAC and approve the maximum admissible Capital Assistance under this sub-component.

5.9.7. The CBG Producer shall submit the application for release of Capital Assistance under this sub-component within twenty-four (24) months from the date of issue of the approval. The CBG Producer will be required to submit:

i. Invoices for approved machinery and equipment;

ii. Proof of payment;

iii. Purchase orders, wherever applicable;

iv. Photographs of the installed machinery and equipment clearly displaying the equipment identification number or serial number; and

v. Such other documents as may be specified by the PMA.

5.9.8. Where the actual procurement cost exceeds the amount approved by the PAB under Clause 5.9.6, the admissible Capital Assistance shall be restricted to the amount approved by the PAB.

5.9.9. After verification, the PMA shall submit the proposal along with its recommendation for release of Capital Assistance under this sub-component to MoPNG.

5.9.10. MoPNG shall process the proposal and, after due approval, release the funds to the Central Nodal Agency (CNA), which shall release the assistance amount into the beneficiary's account within two weeks of receipt of funds.

5.9.11. Capital Assistance under this sub-component shall be admissible only once for each eligible CBG project. No subsequent claim for reimbursement of additional machinery or equipment procured after submission of the application under this sub-component shall be entertained.

6. Mode of Disbursement

6.1. Disbursement of CA under this component will be carried out as follows:

6.1.1. In case of self-financed projects, CA will be disbursed to the bank account of the project developer.

6.1.2. In case of debt-financed projects, where loan drawn by the project developer is equal to or greater than the admissible CA, the assistance will be disbursed

to the loan account of the project developer maintained with the lending Financial Institution (FI)/ Bank.

6.1.3. In case of debt-financed projects where the loan drawn is less than the admissible CA, the assistance equivalent to loan amount will be disbursed first to the loan account of the project developer. The balance CA shall then be disbursed to the project developer's bank account.

7. Prioritization Framework

7.1. Applications under this component will be grouped and considered on a monthly basis.

7.2. During the month when the total assistance amount against submitted applications exceeds the remaining budgetary allocation, priority will be accorded to a CBG project as per the following order:

7.2.1. CBG project that has a firm contract for sale of CBG through an identified CBG cluster or through pipeline to a CGD entity.

7.2.2. CBG project that has received loan sanction and is a beneficiary of the Credit Guarantee component of GOBARdhan.

7.2.3. CBG project that has greater installed CBG capacity.

7.2.4. CBG project where the applying entity has not previously been sanctioned Capital Assistance for any of its other projects.

7.3. The aggregate Capital Assistance sanctioned to an entity and its subsidiaries in which it holds a majority stake, across all eligible CBG projects under Sub-Component I and Sub-Component II, shall not exceed ₹500 crore in a financial year.

7.4. Where sanction of a project application would result in the entity exceeding the limit specified under Clause 7.3, such project application shall be considered from the subsequent financial year, subject to availability of funds and the priority order as per Clause 7.2.

8. General Provisions

8.1. MoPNG may issue clarifications, standard operating procedures, formats, or directions for effective implementation of this component from time to time.

8.2. MoPNG reserves the right to modify, amend, or withdraw any provision under these guidelines, based on implementation experience, policy requirements, availability of funds, or directions of the competent authority.

8.3. In case of any ambiguity or dispute regarding interpretation of these guidelines, the decision of MoPNG will be final and binding.

8.4. Sanction and disbursement of CA under this component will be subject to availability of funds.

8.5. Misrepresentation, Manipulation and Recovery

8.5.1. If any project developer is found to have obtained or attempted to obtain CA through false information, misrepresentation, forged documents, manipulation of SCADA data, tampering with monitoring systems, or any other fraudulent means, MoPNG may suspend further disbursement, revoke approval, recover assistance already released, debar the concerned entity from availing all benefits under the GOBARdhan Scheme, and take such other action as may be deemed appropriate.

8.5.2. Action under this clause will be taken after providing the project developer or concerned entity an opportunity to respond, except where immediate action is necessary to prevent further misuse of assistance.

9. Institutional Framework

9.1. Steering Committee (SC)

9.1.1. The Steering Committee (SC), chaired by the Secretary, MoPNG, will provide overall guidance for implementation of the CA component of the GOBARdhan Scheme.

9.1.2. The SC may issue directions, clarifications, or recommendations as may be required for effective implementation of the CA component.

9.2. Project Approval Board (PAB)

9.2.1. The Project Approval Board (PAB), chaired by the Secretary, MoPNG, will be the approving authority for projects under this component.

9.2.2. The PAB will consider recommendations of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), approve eligible projects, determine admissible CA, and undertake such other functions as may be assigned under the Scheme.

9.2.3. The PAB will consider and approve any revision, modification, or withdrawal of In-Principle Approval granted under this component, wherever required.

9.3. Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)

9.3.1. The Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) will appraise applications for CA in accordance with these guidelines.

9.3.2. Based on its appraisal, the PAC will recommend eligible projects, along with the admissible CA to the PAB.

9.3.3. The PAC may recommend any further scrutiny (additional documents, physical verification, etc.) to be undertaken by the PMA.

9.4. Project Management Agency (PMA)

9.4.1. The Centre for High Technology (CHT) will function as the Project Management Agency (PMA) for implementation of this component, unless otherwise notified by MoPNG.

9.4.2. The PMA will track the physical and financial progress of approved projects, including status of CTE, CTO status, SCADA/ Gas Chromatograph/ Mass Spectrometer integration, production performance, tranche-wise disbursement, and compliance with conditions specified in the In-Principle Approval Letter.

9.4.3. The PMA will recommend release of CA to MoPNG after satisfactory verification of applicable milestones and conditions.

9.4.4. The PMA will be responsible for designating Inspection Agency(ies) for site visits to CBG plants, as deemed necessary.

9.4.5. The PMA will additionally be designated as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for processing and disbursement of funds. The CNA shall release the financial assistance within two weeks of receipt of funds by the CNA into the beneficiary's account.

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Appendix-I

Format for Self-Certification of Commissioning Eligibility and First Commercial Sale of CBG

[To be submitted by the CBG producer at the time of application for release of the second tranche of Capital Assistance]

GOBARdhan Plant ID: _____
Name of CBG Project Developer: _____
Name and Address of Project Site: _____
Greenfield/ Brownfield CBG project: _____
Proposed (greenfield)/ incremental (brownfield) CBG capacity: _____
Pre-dominant Feedstock Category: _____

We, M/s _____, hereby certify that:

1. The CBG project for which Capital Assistance is sought under the GOBARdhan Scheme is:
    I. a greenfield CBG project commissioned after the date of notification of the GOBARdhan Scheme; or
    II. a brownfield CBG project in which the incremental CBG capacity approved under the Scheme has been commissioned after the date of notification of the GOBARdhan Scheme.
2. For the purposes of the Capital Assistance Guidelines, "commissioned" means the first commercial sale of CBG from the eligible greenfield project or, in the case of a brownfield project, from the approved incremental CBG capacity.
3. The date of first commercial sale of CBG from the eligible greenfield project/approved incremental brownfield capacity is: _____.
4. The CBG plant has received Consent to Operate (CTO) dated _____ from _____ [State Pollution Control Board/PESO, as applicable].
5. The application is supported by the following documents:
    I. First invoice issued by GAIL (India) Limited under the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme; or
    II. where CBG is sold outside the CBG-CGD Synchronization Scheme, a Chartered Accountant-certified copy of the first commercial sale invoice issued by the CBG producer, together with CBG quality parameters in accordance with IS 16087 (latest revision); and

III. Consent to Operate issued by the State Pollution Control Board or applicable PESO licence.

6. The information furnished above and the supporting documents enclosed are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signatory
Name: _____
Designation: _____
Entity: _____
Signature and Stamp: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

Appendix-II

Format for DPR of CBG Plant

S. No.	Description
A. Technical and Commercial	
1.	Executive Summary
2.	Introduction
3.	Details regarding plant CBG production capacity
4.	Predominant feedstock, procurement procedure for feedstock (supply contracts etc.)
5.	Technology description: – Description of main Plant Equipment, Auxiliary Equipment and systems with technical specifications – Description of Plant Electrical System – Plant Instrumentation and Control system
6.	Project Schematics and Drawings
7.	Project implementation – Execution and management plan – EPC plan
8.	Plant layout, land area requirement & existing infrastructure facilities
9.	Operation & Maintenance set up
10.	Environment impact/ protection management (Government regulation and clearance required), if applicable
11.	Project cost estimate (site development, civil works, plant machinery, roads & building, water supply & public health, electrical works, fire protection system, office equipment, furniture & automation etc.)
12.	Cost of generation, financial analysis and Techno economic feasibility
13.	Risk and sensitivity analysis

Appendix-III

Format for Self-Certification by Self-Financed CBG Project Developer

[To be submitted only in case of self-financed projects at the time of application for In-Principle Approval]

GOBARdhan Plant ID: _____
Name of CBG Project Developer: _____
Name and Address of Project Site: _____
Greenfield/ Brownfield CBG project: _____
Proposed (greenfield)/ incremental (brownfield) CBG capacity: _____
Feedstock Category: _____

We, M/s _____, hereby certify that:

1. The CBG project for which Capital Assistance is being sought under the GOBARdhan Scheme is being implemented through self-financing and is not dependent on institutional term debt as on the date of this declaration.
2. We confirm that adequate financial resources are available with us for implementation and commissioning of the project.
3. We undertake to promptly inform the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Project Management Agency (PMA), or any designated agency, in the event that the project subsequently avails institutional debt financing. The loan sanction letter for the same shall be submitted to the PMA.
4. We understand that furnishing false information or suppressing material facts regarding the financing arrangement of the project may result in rejection of the application, revocation of approval, recovery of Capital Assistance already released, debarment from availing benefits under the GOBARdhan Scheme, and initiation of action in accordance with applicable law.
5. We certify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Authorized Signatory
Name: _____
Designation: _____
Entity: _____
Signature and Stamp: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

Appendix-IV

Format for Self-Certification on Non-Availment of Ineligible Central Assistance for establishment of CBG Plant

[To be submitted by the CBG project developer at the stage of application for In-Principle Approval]

GOBARdhan Plant ID: _____
Name of CBG Project Developer: _____
Name and Address of Project Site: _____
Greenfield/ Brownfield CBG project: _____
Proposed (greenfield)/ incremental (brownfield) CBG capacity: _____
Feedstock Category: _____

We, M/s _____, hereby certify that:

1. The CBG project for which Capital Assistance for establishment of CBG plant is being sought under GOBARdhan has not received and has not been sanctioned Central Financial Assistance under any programme administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) or any other Central Government Ministry.

2. We confirm that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief, and no material information relevant to eligibility or determination of Capital Assistance has been concealed or misrepresented.

3. We understand that any false declaration, suppression of material facts, or misrepresentation may result in rejection of application, revocation of approval, recovery of assistance already released, debarment from availing benefits under the Scheme, and initiation of action in accordance with applicable law.

Authorized Signatory
Name: _____
Designation: _____
Entity: _____
Signature and Stamp: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

Appendix-V

List of Eligible Equipment/ Machinery for Feedstock Aggregation, Manure Value Addition and Other Eligible Processes

Sr No	Required machines
	Feedstock Aggregation Machinery
1	Cutter/ Rotary Slasher
2	Tedder Machine/ Tractor Drawn Tedder Machine
3	Raker
4	Tractor for Baler
5	Baler (Square baler, Round Baler, Variable chamber Baler, Large Square Balers)
6	Tractor for Rotary Slasher, Tedder and Raker
7	Trolley (Flat, Single Axle, Local Fabricator)/ Automatic bale loading trolley
8	Tractor Mounted Loader (Without Tractor)
9	Tractor (4WD) with Loader attachment
10	Telehandler
11	Bale accumulator
12	Bale bundler - small square bales
13	Tipper
14	Hay Moisture Meter
15	Water Tank (5,000 Litres)
16	Lightning Arrestor
17	Fire Extinguisher
	FOM Management
18	PROM Production facility
19	Windrow compost turner/ aerotiller
20	LFOM SS tanker with PTO pump
21	*Any other equipment not listed above – to be decided by the PAB*

Appendix-VI

Format for Self-Certification on Disclosure of BAM Support

[To be submitted by the CBG project developer at the stage of application for In-Principle Approval]

GOBARdhan Plant ID: _____
Name of CBG Project Developer: _____
Name and Address of Project Site: _____
Greenfield/ Brownfield CBG project: _____
Proposed (greenfield)/ incremental (brownfield) CBG capacity: _____
Feedstock Category: _____

We, M/s _____, hereby certify that:

1. Details of support sanctioned or released under the Biomass Aggregation Machinery (BAM) Scheme of MoPNG are as follows:

S. No.	Particular	Details
1	Whether support under BAM Scheme has been sanctioned/ released	Yes/ No
2	Sanction Letter No. and Date, if applicable	_____
3	Amount sanctioned under BAM Scheme	₹_____ crore
4	Amount released under BAM Scheme	₹_____ crore

2. We confirm that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief, and no material information relevant to eligibility or determination of Capital Assistance has been concealed or misrepresented.
3. We understand that any false declaration, suppression of material facts, or misrepresentation may result in rejection of application, revocation of approval, recovery of assistance already released, debarment from availing benefits under the Scheme, and initiation of action in accordance with applicable law.

Authorized Signatory
Name: _____
Designation: _____
Entity: _____
Signature and Stamp: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

Component IV: Development of Pipeline Infrastructure for Facilitation of CBG Offtake under GOBARdhan

1. Introduction

1.1. The growth of India's Compressed Biogas (CBG) sector depends on adequate pipeline infrastructure for reliable evacuation and offtake of CBG from plant sites. However, investments in CBG pipelines have lagged behind the rapid expansion of production capacity. This has created offtake uncertainty for producers, limiting further investment in the sector.

2. Objective

2.1. Reference is invited to the GOBARdhan Scheme approved on August 6th, 2026. These guidelines are issued under Component IV of the Scheme titled "Development of Pipeline Infrastructure".

2.2. The objective of these guidelines is to establish the framework for providing financial assistance for development of pipeline infrastructure to enable evacuation and injection of CBG into CGD networks and trunk pipelines.

2.3. Financial support will be provided under two categories (referred to as Sub-Component I and Sub-Component II respectively throughout these guidelines):

2.3.1. Sub-Component I (CGD Network Connectivity): Pipeline connectivity from CBG plants to the nearest techno-commercially feasible CGD network either directly or through a Gas Gathering Station; and

2.3.2. Sub-Component II (Trunk Pipeline Connectivity): Cluster-based pipeline infrastructure for one or more CBG plants for connecting to the trunk pipeline, either directly or through a Gas Gathering Station, based on techno-commercial feasibility.

2.4. Upon the coming into force of this Scheme, Development of Pipeline Infrastructure scheme administered by MoPNG shall be subsumed from 1st September 2026.

2.5. All committed liabilities arising out of or in connection with the DPI Scheme administered by MoPNG will be borne solely by MoPNG and will not be covered under this component.

3. Scope and Eligibility

3.1. These guidelines will be applicable to:

3.1.1. CBG producers and CGD entities registered under the GOBARdhan Scheme;

3.1.2. GAIL (India) Limited, designated as the Cluster Operator, for the development, ownership, operation, and maintenance of cluster-based pipeline infrastructure.

3.2. CBG Producer will be eligible to benefit under the Development of Pipeline Infrastructure, subject to fulfilment of the following quality criteria:

i. Based on the mode of evacuation, CBG supplied under this framework will meet the quality requirements specified in:

a) PNGRB (Access Code for Common Carrier or Contract Carrier Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2008 for trunk NGPL and its latest amendments.

b) PNGRB (Access Code for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations, 2020 for CGD network and latest amendments.

c) IS 16087: 2025: Biogas (Biomethane) – Specification (latest amendments).

ii. For injection of CBG directly into trunk pipelines: Above sub paras i(a) & i(c) will be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

iii. For injection of CBG directly into CGD pipeline networks: Above sub paras i(b) & i(c) will be applicable for quality parameters. The CBG Producer needs to meet both specifications.

3.3. All CBG producers who will avail benefits under the DPI component of the GOBARdhan Scheme will mandatorily install and maintain real-time SCADA-based monitoring systems for measurement of CBG quantity at purification outlet, the cascade filling point within the CBG plant boundary and/ or at the custody transfer point for pipeline injection, and will provide access to such systems and associated data to MoPNG or any designated agency.

3.4. All CBG producers who will avail benefits under the DPI component of the GOBARdhan Scheme will further mandatorily install and maintain a Gas

Chromatograph or Mass Spectrometer for measurement of output CBG quality and will provide data access to MoPNG or any designated agency through SCADA based monitoring system.

3.5. The specifications and modalities for SCADA-based monitoring systems and quality-measurement instrumentation shall be made available on the GOBARdhan portal.

3.6. An automatic interlock and shut-off system will be installed by the CBG producer within the CBG plant premises to ensure biogas supply is within the specified quality parameters. The system will automatically isolate the gas flow if the composition deviates from the permissible limits.

3.7. Geo-tagged images of the equipment mentioned above, from Clause 3.3 to Clause 3.6, shall mandatorily be uploaded by the CBG producer on the GOBARdhan portal, as per the prescribed format available on the portal.

3.8. Financial Assistance will be subject to techno-commercial feasibility, availability of funds, and compliance with these guidelines.

3.9. Eligibility Criteria: Sub-Component I (CGD Network Connectivity): The following conditions will need to be fulfilled by a CBG plant for pipeline infrastructure to be eligible for Financial Assistance under Sub-Component I.

Eligibility Criteria	Condition
CBG Plant Registration	The CBG plant will be registered on the GOBARdhan portal and will have a valid GOBARdhan Plant ID.
Minimum Plant Capacity	The CBG plant will have an installed CBG production capacity of at least 2 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR). CBG projects above 5 TPD installed capacity will be given preference under this component.
Plant Status	Commissioned CBG plants or under-construction plants on the GOBARdhan portal will be eligible. Under-construction plants shall be eligible upon achieving at least 25% physical progress as per the approved DPR. Applicants must submit a producer's

	certification of achievement of 25% physical progress along with the photographs of the plant.
Offtake Agreement	Applicant shall need to have an active Firm Offtake Agreement for CBG sale/ offtake.

3.10. Eligibility Criteria: Sub-Component II (Cluster-based Connectivity): The following conditions will need to be fulfilled for a cluster-based connectivity proposal under Sub-Component II.

Eligibility Criteria	Condition
CBG Plant Registration	All CBG plants proposed to be part of the cluster will be registered on the GOBARdhan portal with valid GOBARdhan Plant IDs.
Minimum Cluster Capacity	The cluster will comprise at least two CBG plants with an aggregate installed CBG production capacity of preferably 20 TPD or higher. Individual plants within the cluster will have an installed capacity of at least 2 TPD each.
Plant Status	Commissioned CBG plants or under-construction plants on the GOBARdhan portal will be eligible. Under-construction plants shall be eligible upon achieving at least 25% physical progress as per the approved DPR. CBG Producers seeking trunk pipeline connectivity must submit a self-certification of the achieved physical progress and upload photographs of the CBG plant at the time of application.

4. Sub Component I: Financial Assistance for CGD Network Connectivity

4.1. Funding Pattern

4.1.1. The concerned CGD entity laying the pipeline will be the beneficiary of Financial Assistance (FA) under Sub-Component I. Where the concerned CGD

entity is unwilling or unable to develop the pipeline, the CBG producer may undertake development of the pipeline with the prior consent of the concerned CGD entity and shall be eligible to avail Financial Assistance under these guidelines.

4.1.2. The beneficiary who has applied for FA under the Sub-Component I will be considered as the owner of the pipeline, and will be responsible for maintenance, upkeep, security and safe operation of the pipeline.

4.1.3. Financial Assistance will be provided for pipeline length up to 75 km. Any pipeline length beyond 75 km may be laid by the beneficiary at its own cost and will not be eligible for Financial Assistance.

4.1.4. In case of cluster-based connectivity of the CGD network to multiple CBG plants, the effective pipeline length will be calculated on the same principle as prescribed for cluster-based trunk pipeline connectivity (Clauses 5.3.1 and 5.3.2).

4.1.5. For calculation of FA, the cost of laying pipeline will be assumed as ₹1 crore per km for Steel pipeline and ₹0.15 crore per km for MDPE pipeline.

4.1.6. The eligible project cost may include the cost of pipeline, gas chromatograph/ gas analyzers, shut-off valves, isolation valves, safety equipment, metering and monitoring equipment, and other associated infrastructure directly required. Equipment and facilities forming part of the CBG plant itself shall not be eligible under this component.

4.1.7. If CGD network connectivity is proposed for multiple CBG plants through cluster-based evacuation, the eligible project cost may also include equipment requirements for cluster infrastructure.

4.1.8. FA will be provided at 50% of the eligible project cost, subject to the following ceilings:

i. For Steel pipeline, FA will be limited to 50% of actual project cost or ₹50 lakh per km, whichever is lower;

ii. For MDPE pipeline, FA will be limited to 50% of actual project cost or ₹7.5 lakh per km, whichever is lower; and

iii. In case of a combination of Steel and MDPE pipeline, FA will be calculated separately for each pipeline segment, based on the applicable norms above.

4.1.9. If a CGD entity proposes to offtake CBG from a plant lying in any adjacent GAs, the PMA will check with the primary/ native GA for right of first refusal, only in case the primary/ native GA has Residual Intake Capacity of CBG available (as per Offtake Assurance Mechanism of GOBARdhan).

4.1.10. In case of no affirmation by the primary/ native GA within 30 days, the PMA will process the application for connectivity to the applying CGD entity.

4.1.11. In the event that the primary/ native GA exercises its Right of First Refusal (RoFR), the project feasibility report shall be submitted within three months from the date on which the RoFR is exercised. In case of no DPR submission, the PMA will process the application for connectivity to the applying CGD entity.

4.1.12. FA under Sub-Component I will be released in three tranches linked to project milestones, as follows:

Milestone	FA Release	Condition / Document
Milestone 1: PAB approval of application	10% of FA sanctioned (if mobilization advance is requested)	i. Release against equivalent Bank Guarantee valid for 18 months from issue date, extendable as required by PMA
Milestone 2: 50% physical construction of pipeline	40% of FA (if advance availed) or 50% of FA (if advance not availed)	i. CA-certified statement of expenditure incurred ii. Equivalent Bank Guarantee valid for 18 months from issue date, extendable as required by PMA
Milestone 3: Commissioning and capacity utilization confirmation	Balance 50% of eligible FA sanctioned or total balance amount of FA (if advance not availed in milestone 1 and/ or 2)	i. Confirmation that at least 50% of committed CBG quantity (as per firm CBG offtake agreement) has been evacuated through the pipeline for a minimum of one (1) month ii. CA-certified statement of total expenditure

iii. Commissioning report and physical verification by the PMA or any designated Third Party Auditor.

4.2. Application for Financial Assistance

4.2.1. Application for FA under Sub-Component I will be submitted through the GOBARdhan portal. The last date for submitting the applications under these guidelines will be 31.12.2030.

4.2.2. The application will be made against a CBG plant registered under the Scheme and will be linked to the Plant ID available on the GOBARdhan portal.

4.2.3. The CGD entity will select the relevant GOBARdhan Plant ID on the portal. An intimation will be generated to the concerned CBG producer for verification of plant details and proposed connectivity. If the CBG producer is applying, the intimation will be generated to the concerned CGD entity.

4.2.4. The CGD entity, in consultation with the CBG producer, shall finalize the route, design specifications, capacity, injection point, metering arrangement and other technical requirements of the pipeline.

4.2.5. The applicant will submit the following documents/ information along with the application:

i. Pipeline Project Feasibility Report, covering pipeline length, diameter, material, proposed route, operating pressure and design capacity;

ii. Details of Gas Gathering Station, Decompression Unit, and evacuation infrastructure, wherever applicable;

iii. Capital Cost Estimate, supported by detailed estimate from registered pipeline contractor(s);

iv. Proposed route map of the pipeline;

v. Copy of firm CBG Offtake Agreement;

vi. Self-certification confirming that required statutory clearances, permissions and approvals will be obtained prior to pipeline laying; and

vii. Prior consent/ No Objection Certificate from the concerned CGD entity for development of the pipeline, wherever the application is submitted by the CBG producer.

4.2.6. The applicant will ensure that bank account details required for disbursement are duly registered and verified on the portal prior to release of Financial Assistance.

4.3. Appraisal and Approval of Application

4.3.1. The designated Project Management Agency (PMA) will conduct preliminary scrutiny of the application within 30 days of receipt of the complete application.

4.3.2. In case of incomplete submissions, the PMA may seek clarifications through the portal. The applicant will respond within 15 days, failing which the application may be liable for rejection.

4.3.3. Eligible proposals will be placed before the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) for appraisal. The PAC will appraise proposals and recommend eligible cases to the Project Approval Board (PAB).

4.3.4. The PAB will consider the recommendations of the PAC and grant in-principle approval for eligible proposals. Approval of PAB will be issued within two months of receipt of the complete application.

4.3.5. Upon approval by the PAB, an in-principle approval letter will be generated by the PMA and shared with the beneficiary. The approval letter will specify the approved Financial Assistance amount, eligible components, commissioning timeline and conditions for release of Financial Assistance.

4.4. Pipeline Construction and Commissioning

4.4.1. After issuance of in-principle approval, the beneficiary will obtain all applicable statutory approvals, permissions, right-of-way/ right-of-use permissions, safety clearances and other authorizations required for laying and commissioning of the pipeline.

4.4.2. The beneficiary will complete pipeline laying and commissioning within eighteen (18) months from the date of in-principle approval.

4.4.3. Extension of timeline may be considered by the PAC on the recommendation of the PMA, on a case-to-case basis, where delay is on account of reasons beyond the control of the beneficiary. An application for extension will be made by the beneficiary to the PMA at least 30 days before the end of the prescribed timeline, along with supporting justification.

4.4.4. After commissioning of the pipeline, the beneficiary will upload the following documents/ information on the portal:

i. Commissioning report;

ii. CA-certified statement of actual expenditure incurred;

iii. Actual route map of the pipeline as commissioned;

iv. Details of pipeline length, material, diameter, capacity, injection point, Gas Gathering Station, Decompression Unit (DCU), evacuation pipeline and other associated infrastructure, wherever applicable; and

v. SCADA/ meter-based evidence of pipeline utilization.

4.4.5. The PMA may seek clarification in case of deviation between the proposed route map and actual route map submitted after commissioning.

4.5. Release of Financial Assistance

4.5.1. Evidence of utilization will be based on SCADA data, metering data, flow records or such other verifiable records as may be prescribed by the PMA.

4.5.2. The PMA/ Third Party Auditor (authorized by the PMA) may also conduct physical verification of the commissioned pipeline. Based on verification, the PMA will submit the proposal along with recommendation for release of Financial Assistance, to MoPNG.

4.5.3. MoPNG will process the proposal and, after due approval, release the funds to the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) which will release the assistance amount within two weeks of receipt of funds in beneficiary's account.

4.5.4. The beneficiary will be able to view the status of approved Financial Assistance, amount disbursed, date of disbursement, and project completion status on the Portal.

4.5.5. The Bank Guarantees submitted at Milestones 1 and 2 will be encashed in case of non-compliance with these guidelines and will be released along with the final disbursement of Financial Assistance.

5. Sub-Component II: Trunk Pipeline Connectivity

5.1. Application, Cluster Formation and Approval

5.1.1. The PMA, in consultation with the Cluster Operator, shall periodically identify and publish a list of potential trunk pipeline injection points on the GOBARdhan portal.

5.1.2. A CBG producer seeking trunk pipeline connectivity may submit an application against a published injection point through the GOBARdhan portal. The application shall be linked to the GOBARdhan Plant ID.

5.1.3. Only quantities of CBG that are not already committed under a firm offtake arrangement with a CGD entity shall be considered for cluster formation.

5.1.4. Cluster-based trunk pipeline connectivity shall be considered where CGD network connectivity is not feasible, is inadequate, or is not optimal for evacuation of the identified CBG quantity.

5.1.5. Once applications from at least 2 CBG plants corresponding to an aggregate CBG capacity of preferably 20 TPD or higher are received for a particular injection point, the Cluster Operator shall consult the concerned CBG producers regarding the proposed cluster development.

5.1.6. The Cluster Operator shall execute a firm CBG offtake agreement with each participating CBG producer. A CBG producer withdrawing from an approved cluster without valid justification after execution of the firm offtake agreement may be debarred from availing benefits under the GOBARdhan Scheme.

5.1.7. Upon execution of the required offtake agreements, the Cluster Operator shall prepare a Detailed Project Report for the proposed cluster-based pipeline infrastructure.

5.1.8. The Cluster Operator shall submit the Detailed Project Report to the PMA for preliminary scrutiny. Where the proposed project cost exceeds the cost norms, the Cluster Operator shall provide detailed justification to the PMA.

5.1.9. The PMA shall place eligible cluster proposals before the Project Appraisal Committee. The PAC shall appraise the proposals and recommend eligible

cases to the Project Approval Board. The PAB shall consider the recommendations of the PAC and approve eligible cluster proposals. The final decision on implementation of any cluster proposal shall rest with the PAB.

5.1.10. Upon approval by the PAB, the PMA shall issue a sanction letter to the Cluster Operator specifying the approved cluster scope and the maximum admissible Financial Assistance for the cluster.

5.2. Cluster Operator

5.2.1. GAIL (India) Limited will be designated as the Cluster Operator under Sub-Component II.

5.2.2. The Cluster Operator will be responsible for planning, development, execution, commissioning, ownership, operation and maintenance of the approved cluster-based pipeline infrastructure.

5.2.3. The Cluster Operator will maintain accounting records for Financial Assistance received and expenditure incurred under this component.

5.2.4. Funds released under these guidelines will be used only for the approved cluster infrastructure and will not be diverted for any other purpose.

5.2.5. The Cluster Operator will be responsible for preparation of cluster feasibility reports, route alignment, cost estimates, implementation schedules, procurement plans, and commissioning plans for each approved cluster.

5.2.6. The Cluster Operator will not transfer, sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of assets created with Financial Assistance under these guidelines without prior approval of MoPNG.

5.2.7. The Cluster Operator will provide access to all eligible CBG producers mapped to an approved cluster on a non-discriminatory basis, subject to techno-commercial feasibility, gas quality compliance and execution of necessary offtake agreements.

5.2.8. Where a new CBG plant is commissioned or registered after commissioning of a cluster, such plant may be connected to the approved cluster based on techno-commercial feasibility, gas quality compliance, metering requirements and execution of necessary offtake agreements.

In such cases, Financial Assistance shall be admissible for pipeline infrastructure as per distance norms under Clause 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.

5.3. Funding Pattern

5.3.1. To determine eligibility under the pipeline length ceiling, the effective pipeline length for each CBG plant in the cluster will be calculated as the sum of:

i. The length of the pipeline segment through which CBG from only that plant is evacuated; and

ii. The proportionate share of any pipeline through which CBG from the concerned CBG plant and one or more other CBG plants is evacuated.

5.3.2. For Clause 5.3.1(ii), the share attributable to each CBG plant shall be calculated by dividing the length of the shared pipeline by the number of CBG plants whose CBG is evacuated through that pipeline.

Non-exhaustive illustrative examples of the methodology for calculation of effective pipeline length are provided in Appendix I.

5.3.3. Financial Assistance will be admissible only up to an effective pipeline length of 75 km per CBG plant, calculated in accordance with Clauses 5.3.1 and 5.3.2.

5.3.4. Where the calculated effective pipeline length for a CBG plant exceeds 75 km, Financial Assistance will not be admissible for the pipeline length in excess of 75 km. The Cluster Operator may, on a best effort basis:

i. Include such plant in the cluster, provided the CBG producer bears the capital cost attributable to the pipeline length in excess of 75 km. In such cases, the Cluster Operator will undertake construction of the additional infrastructure, and the cost of the same will be recovered from the concerned CBG producer;

ii. Permit such a CBG plant to supply CBG through cascade-Decompression Unit (DCU) arrangement to the Gas Gathering Station or approved injection point, subject to technical and operational feasibility; or

iii. Exclude such a CBG plant from the cluster, in case above options are not feasible.

5.4. Cluster Construction and Commissioning

5.4.1. After issuance of sanction letter, the Cluster Operator will obtain all applicable statutory approvals, permissions, right-of-way/ right-of-use permissions, safety

clearances and other authorizations required for development and commissioning of cluster-based pipeline infrastructure.

5.4.2. The Cluster Operator will undertake construction of gas gathering pipelines, Gas Gathering Station, compression facilities, evacuation pipeline, shared injection infrastructure and associated facilities as approved under the sanction letter.

5.4.3. The Cluster Operator will complete construction and commissioning of cluster-based pipeline infrastructure within two years from the date of sanction, unless extended by the PAC on the recommendation of the PMA for reasons beyond the control of the Cluster Operator.

6. Institutional Framework

6.1. Project Approval Board (PAB)

6.1.1. The Project Approval Board (PAB), chaired by Secretary, MoPNG, will be the approving authority for proposals under this component.

6.1.2. The PAB will consider recommendations of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC), approve eligible projects, determine admissible Financial Assistance, and undertake such other functions as may be assigned under the Scheme.

6.1.3. The PAB will consider and approve any revision, modification, or withdrawal of In-Principle Approval/ sanction granted under this component, wherever required.

6.2. Project Appraisal Committee (PAC)

6.2.1. The Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) will appraise applications for Financial Assistance for development of pipeline infrastructure in accordance with these guidelines.

6.2.2. Based on its appraisal, the PAC will recommend eligible projects, along with the admissible Financial Assistance to the PAB.

6.2.3. The PAC may recommend any further scrutiny (additional documents, physical verification, etc.) to be undertaken by the PMA.

6.3. Project Management Agency (PMA)

6.3.1. The Centre for High Technology (CHT) will function as the Project Management Agency (PMA) for implementation of this component, unless otherwise notified by MoPNG.

6.3.2. The PMA will examine the proposals submitted under the DPI component of the GOBARdhan Scheme with reference to technical feasibility, proposed pipeline length, route, material, design capacity, estimated cost, commercial arrangement and compliance with the eligibility conditions under these guidelines.

6.3.3. The PMA will recommend release of Financial Assistance to MoPNG after satisfactory verification of applicable milestones and conditions.

6.3.4. The PMA will additionally be designated as the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) for processing and disbursement of funds. The CNA will release the financial assistance within two weeks of receipt of funds in beneficiary's account.

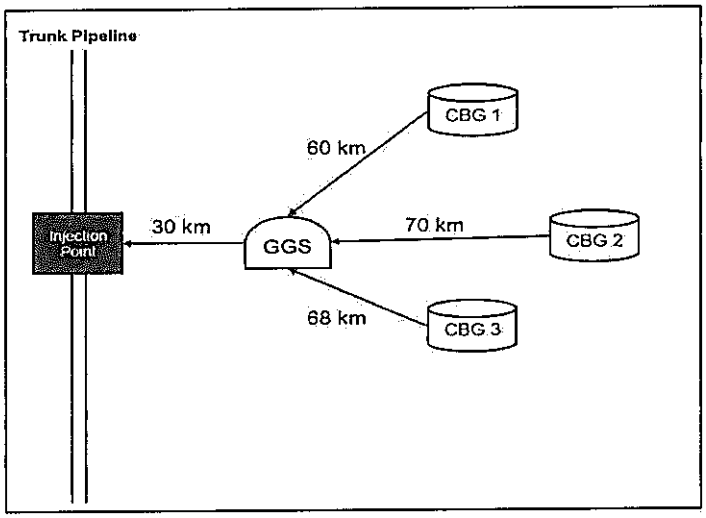
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Appendix-I

Illustrations for Determination of Effective Pipeline Length in case of Cluster-based Pipeline Infrastructure

[Non-exhaustive]

Case 1:



1. Assumptions:

   a. Distance between GGS and Injection Point = 30 km.
   b. Distance between CBG-1 and GGS = 60 km.
   c. Distance between CBG-2 and GGS = 70 km.
   d. Distance between CBG-3 and GGS = 68 km.

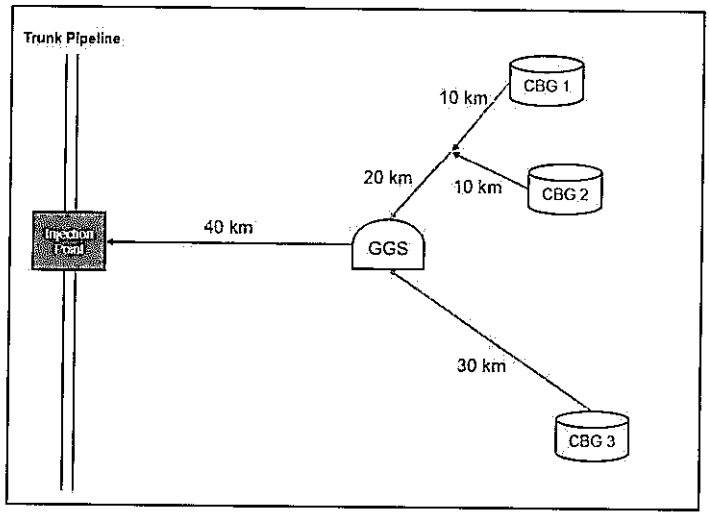
2. Calculations:

Description	CBG-1	CBG-2	CBG-3
Exclusive pipeline length (km)	60	70	68
Share of GGS to trunk pipeline (km)	10 (=30 / 3)	10 (=30 / 3)	10 (=30 / 3)
Effective Pipeline Length (km)	**70**	**80**	**78**

3. Accordingly, the effective pipeline length attributable to CBG-1, CBG-2 and CBG-3 will be 70 km, 80 km and 78 km respectively.

4. As per Clause 5.3.3 of the Operational Guidelines, Financial Assistance shall be admissible only up to an effective pipeline length of 75 km attributable to each CBG plant.

Case 2:



1. Assumptions:

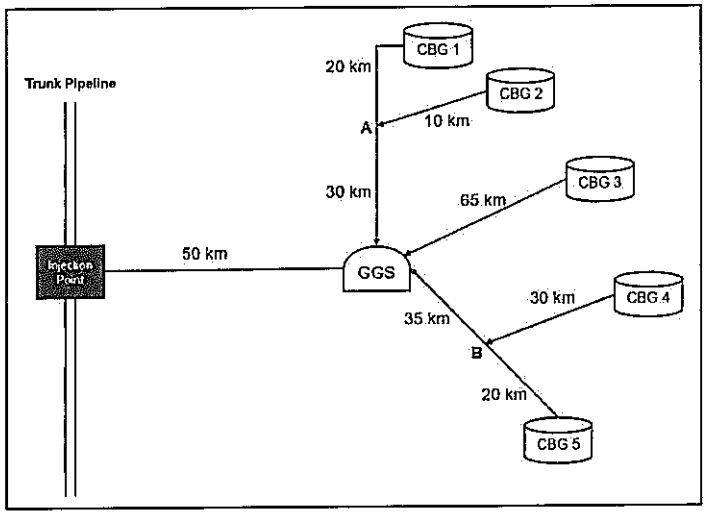
   a. Distance between GGS and Injection Point = 40 km.
   b. Distance between CBG-1 and shared pipeline = 10 km.
   c. Distance between CBG-2 and shared pipeline = 10 km.
   d. Length of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 to reach GGS = 20 km.
   e. Distance between CBG-3 and GGS = 30 km.

2. Calculations:

Description	**CBG-1**	**CBG-2**	**CBG-3**
Exclusive pipeline length (km)	10	10	30
Share of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 (km)	10 (=20 / 2)	10 (=20 / 2)	-
Share of GGS to trunk pipeline (km)	13.33 (=40 / 3)	13.33 (=40 / 3)	13.33 (=40 / 3)
Effective Pipeline Length (km)	**33.33**	**33.33**	**43.33**

3. Accordingly, the effective pipeline length attributable to CBG-1, CBG-2 and CBG-3 shall be 33.33 km, 33.33 km and 43.33 km respectively.

Case 3:



1. Assumptions:

   a. Distance between GGS and Injection Point = 50 km.
   b. Distance between CBG-1 and shared pipeline (Point A) = 20 km.
   c. Distance between CBG-2 and shared pipeline (Point A) = 10 km.
   d. Length of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 to reach GGS = 30 km.
   e. Distance between CBG-3 and GGS = 65 km.
   f. Distance between CBG-4 and shared pipeline (Point B) = 30 km.
   g. Distance between CBG-5 and shared pipeline (Point B) = 20 km.
   h. Length of shared pipeline used by CBG-4 and CBG-5 to reach GGS = 35 km.

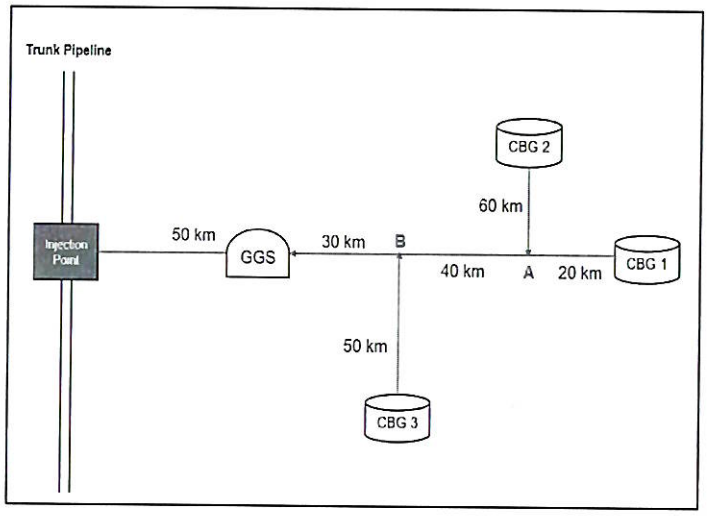
2. Calculations:

Description	CBG-1	CBG-2	CBG-3	CBG-4	CBG-5
Exclusive pipeline length (km)	20	10	65	30	20
Share of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 (km)	15 (=30 / 2)	15 (=30 / 2)	-	-	-
Share of shared pipeline used by CBG-4 and CBG-5 (km)	-	-	-	17.5 (=35 / 2)	17.5 (=35 / 2)
Share of GGS to Injection Point Pipeline (km)	10 (=50 / 5)	10 (=50 / 5)	10 (=50 / 5)	10 (=50 / 5)	10 (=50 / 5)

Effective Pipeline Length (km)	**45**	**35**	**75**	**57.5**	**47.5**

3. Accordingly, the effective pipeline length attributable to CBG-1, CBG-2, CBG-3, CBG-4 and CBG-5 shall be 45 km, 35 km, 75 km, 57.5 km and 47.5 km respectively.

Case 4:



1. Assumptions:

a. Distance between GGS and Injection Point = 50 km.
b. Distance between CBG-1 and shared pipeline (Point A) = 20 km.
c. Distance between CBG-2 and shared pipeline (Point A) = 60 km.
d. Length of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 to reach Point B = 40 km.
e. Distance between CBG-3 and Point B = 50 km.
f. Length of shared pipeline used by CBG-1, CBG-2 and CBG-3 to reach GGS = 30 km.

2. Calculations:

Description	**CBG-1**	**CBG-2**	**CBG-3**
Exclusive pipeline length (km)	20	60	50
Share of shared pipeline used by CBG-1 and CBG-2 (km)	20 (=40 / 2)	20 (=40 / 2)	-

Share of shared pipeline used by CBG-1, CBG-2 and CBG-3 (km)	10 (=30 / 3)	10 (=30 / 3)	10 (=30 / 3)
Share of GGS to Injection Point Pipeline (km)	16.67 (=50 / 3)	16.67 (=50 / 3)	16.67 (=50 / 3)
Effective Pipeline Length (km)	**66.67**	**106.67**	**76.67**

3. Accordingly, the effective pipeline length attributable to CBG-1, CBG-2, and CBG-3 shall be 66.67 km, 106.67 km, and 76.67 km respectively.

4. As per Clause 5.3.3 of the Operational Guidelines, Financial Assistance shall be admissible only up to an effective pipeline length of 75 km attributable to each CBG plant.

Component V: Operational Guidelines of Credit Guarantee Scheme for Compressed Biogas (CGSCBG) Projects Under GOBARdhan

1. Name of the Scheme

The Scheme shall be named as 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Compressed Biogas (CBG) Projects under GOBARdhan' and the Trust /Fund to manage the Scheme shall be named as 'Credit Guarantee Fund for CBG Project under GOBARdhan'.

Credit Guarantee Fund for CBG Project under Gobardhan shall be a Trust Fund formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and shall be managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), a wholly owned company of Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, as a Trustee.

2. Purpose of the Scheme

To provide guarantee coverage for term loan assistance to Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects particularly for MSME-scale developers, owing to feedstock and offtake uncertainty.

3. Date of commencement of the Scheme

The guidelines shall come into force from the date of issue of these guidelines by NCGTC. All eligible loans sanctioned on or after the date of issue of these guidelines shall be eligible for coverage under the Scheme.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this Scheme –

(a) "Amount in Default" means the principal and interest amount outstanding in the loan account of the borrower as on the date of the account becoming NPA, or on the date of lodgement of claim application, whichever is lower.

(b) "Credit facility" means financial assistance provided under the Scheme by way of term loan to eligible Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects taken under GOBARdhan. Financial assistance provided as part of the Scheme is to be operated as a separate loan account.

(c) "Primary Security" in respect of a credit facility shall mean the assets created out of the credit facility so extended.

(d) "Collateral Security" in respect of a credit facility shall mean security provided in additional to the primary security.

(e) "Guarantee Cover" means the maximum cover available per eligible borrower of the amount in default in respect of the credit facility extended by the lending institution. The guarantee cover shall commence from the date of payment of guarantee fee.

(f) "Interest Rate" for a lending institution means the rate so declared by that lending institution from time to time as per Reserve Bank of India guidelines based on which interest rate applicable for the loan will be determined.

(g) "Lock in period" means the period during which no invocation of guarantee can be made;

(h) "Member Lending Institution(s) (MLIs)" means a Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) / Scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks (SUCB) / Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) / Co-operative Banks / All India Financial Institution (AIFI) as defined in sub-clause (i) of Clause (c) of Section 45-I of RBI Act, 1934/ Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) as defined in clause (f) of Section 45-I of RBI Act, 1934 and which has its principal business as defined by RBI and has been granted a certificate of registration under sub-section (1) of Section 45-IA conforming to the eligibility criteria duly approved under the Scheme and as modified by the Trust/Trustee from time to time and who have entered into an Agreement with/submitted Undertaking to the Trust/Trustee for availing assistance under the Scheme.

(i) "NCGTC" means National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited set up on March 28, 2014 by the Government of India under the Companies Act, 1956 to act as the Trustee to operate various Credit Guarantee Funds/Trusts set up/to be set up by the Government of India from time to time.

(j) "Non-Performing Assets" means an asset classified as non-performing based on the instructions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

(k) "Tenure of guarantee cover" means the maximum period for which the guarantee cover shall be coterminous with tenor of loan.

(l) "CBG" means Compressed BioGas.

(m) "PSL" means Priority Sector Lending as per the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(n) "Agri-Infrastructure" means Agri-Infrastructure shall be defined in accordance with Annexure II of the Reserve Bank of India (Priority Sector Lending – Targets and Classification) Directions, 2025 (updated from time to time).

(o) "All the eligible feedstocks" means Agri Residue, Press Mud, Animal Waste, Mixed Feed and all other eligible stocks which are used for generation of compressed biogas (CBG), will be covered.

5. Scheme Outline

i. The project cost may be of any amount. However, loans for eligible agriculture infrastructure projects shall be subject to an aggregate sanctioned limit of ₹100 crore per borrower across the banking system, as specified in the RBI Master Directions on Priority Sector Lending (PSL);

ii. The quantum of credit guarantee cover per eligible borrower shall be 85% of loan amount subject to a cap of ₹20 crore for general MSME borrowers and up to ₹25 crore for women-led MSME borrowers;

iii. Tenure of the Loan upto 15 years, including 18 months of moratorium from the date of first disbursement of loan.

iv. The total outlay of ₹625 Crore is earmarked for CGSCBG.

v. Rate of Interest on loans – Rate of Interest is applicable as per RBI guidelines.

vi. Lock in period for invocation of guarantee shall be 18 Months from the date of commencement of guarantee cover;

6. Duration of the Scheme

The Scheme shall remain in force from the date of issuance of these Operational Guidelines until 31 December 2030, or till loans cumulating to Rs.15,000 crore is issued, whichever is earlier.

7. Eligible Lenders

All Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) / Scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks (SUCB) / Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) / Co-operative Banks / All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) as defined in sub-clause (i) of Clause (c) of Section 45-I of RBI Act, 1934/ Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) as defined in clause (f) of Section 45-I of RBI Act, 1934 and which has its principal business as defined by RBI and has been granted a certificate of registration under sub-section (1) of Section 45-IA conforming to the eligibility criteria duly approved under the Scheme and as modified by the Trust/Trustee from time to time.

8. Eligible Borrower

(i) Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects registered on the GOBARdhan Portal and possessing a valid Plant Identification Number (Plant ID) shall be eligible for credit guarantee coverage under the Scheme.

(ii) CBG projects are recognized as eligible agricultural infrastructure under the applicable guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and credit facilities extended to such projects qualify for classification under the Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework, as amended from time to time.

(iii) Eligible CBG projects are only those enterprises that are classified as Micro, Small or Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in accordance with the provisions of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, and the notifications issued thereunder, shall be eligible for credit guarantee coverage under this Scheme.

(iv) CBG projects shall be eligible for guarantee coverage in respect of term loans sanctioned by eligible Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), subject to compliance with the provisions of these Operational Guidelines and such other conditions as may be prescribed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) from time to time.

9. Credit Facility Not Eligible under the Scheme: The following loans / credit facilities shall not be eligible for guarantee cover:
(i) Loans to CBG projects predominantly based on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) / Sewage Waste (≥ 50% of feedstock). Detailed Project Report (DPR) shall be submitted to establish the eligibility of the CBG Plant based on feedstock. The Member Lending Institution (MLI)/Bank shall verify such eligibility while sanctioning the loan.

(ii) Loans for acquisition of existing CBG plants.

(iii) Standalone biogas upgradation projects and capacity enhancement projects shall not be eligible for coverage under the Scheme. Only greenfield projects shall be eligible for coverage under the Scheme.

(iv) Loans for projects not registered on the GOBARdhan portal.

(v) Loans sanctioned before the date of notification of Scheme guidelines.

10. Loans not eligible under the Scheme

(i) Any loan in respect of which risks are additionally covered under a scheme operated / administered by any other Scheme, to the extent they are so covered.

(ii) Any loan in respect of which risks are additionally covered by Government or by any general insurer or any other person or association of persons carrying on the business of insurance, guarantee or indemnity, to the extent they are so covered.

(iii) Any loan, which does not conform to, or is in any way inconsistent with the provisions of any law or any directives or instructions issued by the Central Government or the Reserve Bank of India which may, for the time being, be in force.

(iv) The Member Lending Institution (MLI) shall submit a Management Certificate, at the time of seeking guarantee cover certifying that the credit facility/project for which guarantee cover is

being requested under the Scheme has not availed, and shall not avail, any other guarantee cover from any Central Government for the same credit facility/project.

11. Guarantee Fee

(i) For availing the guarantee cover, the Member Lending Institution shall pay Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF) of 0.5 % p.a. of the disbursement/outstanding amount as on the date of application of guarantee cover, upfront to the Trust within 30 days from the date of Credit Guarantee Demand Advice Note (CGDAN) of guarantee fee.All subsequent AGFs would be calculated on the basis of the outstanding loan amount as at the beginning of the Financial Year and on additional disbursements made during the first and subsequent years out of the total sanctioned amount on a prorata basis.

(ii) However, the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) reserves the right to revise the guarantee fees of specific Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) depending on the basis of their Rating, NPA level, payout ratios etc. The revision, if any, shall be applicable in respect of proposals for which fresh guarantee cover has been sought by the MLI.

(iii) The demand on MLI for the AGF in respect of fresh guarantees would be raised upon approval of guarantee cover. The guarantee start date would be the date on which proceeds of the AGF are credited to Trust's Bank account. The AGF shall be calculated on pro-rata basis for the first (from date of first/subsequent disbursement) and last year (till closure of the account) and in full for the intervening years on the outstanding loan amount at the beginning of the financial year. For renewal of guarantee cover at the beginning of the year, the AGF shall be paid by the MLI within 30 days, i.e. on or before April 30, of every year.

(iv) Provided further that in the event of non-payment of AGF within the stipulated time or such extended time that may be agreed to by Trustee on such terms, liability of the Trust to guarantee such credit facility would lapse in respect of those credit facility against which the AGF are due and not paid.

12. Security

(i) The MLI shall ensure that the interest of NCGTC is safeguarded at all times;

(ii) The MLI shall hold first charge on the primary securities on behalf of NCGTC and shall ensure that necessary documentation in this regard is done prior to the account turning NPA, failing which claim shall not be considered;

(iii) No collateral security shall be required for the portion of the loan covered under the guarantee available under the Scheme. However, where the loan amount exceeds the guarantee cover available under the Scheme, the Member Lending Institution (MLI) may obtain

collateral security only for the portion of the loan that is not covered by the NCGTC guarantee.

13. Invocation of guarantee

(i) Lock in period for invocation of claim shall be 18 months from the date of commencement of guarantee cover;

(ii) Invocation of claim would be considered only if the conditions of the Scheme have been complied with and claim has been filed on the NCGTC's portal with requisite documents;

(iii) There is lock in period as explained at 13(i). Subject to it and the claim being found otherwise to be in order and complete in all respects, the Trust shall pay:
(a) Seventy Five percent (75%) of the eligible claim amount upon submission of proof of having the account turned NPA and subject to compliance of initiation of legal action and other terms/conditions of the scheme;
(b) Balance twenty five percent (25%) of the eligible claim amount upon conclusion of the legal proceedings / settlement under OTS or upon the legal case becoming time barred, whichever is earlier.

(iv) Mere issue of recall notice shall not be construed as initiation of legal action. Legal action shall be considered as initiated upon filing of application in Lok Adalat, Civil Court, DRT or after action pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 or after admission of application under NCLT or such other action as may be decided by NCGTC from time to time.

(v) One Time Settlement, either directly or through Lok Adalat or otherwise, shall be allowed only after the MLI has initiated legal proceedings upon account turning NPA, 1 year has elapsed since commencement of legal proceedings, compliance is ensured with other terms of the Scheme guidelines and OTS is found eligible by the MLI as per its Board approved policy. However, in all cases involving a One-Time Settlement (OTS), the guarantee claim shall be reduced by 10%, and accordingly, only 90% of the eligible Credit Guarantee Cover shall be payable.

14. Process for issue of Guarantee and its invocation, where applicable

Step 1: Application from Borrower: A borrower will apply on the Jan Samarth portal along with requisite details, whereupon the application shall move to the selected lender.

Step 2: The lender would examine the eligibility of the borrower under the Scheme and sanction credit facility under the Scheme. It would mark for Guarantee Support under CGSCBG at the appropriate box available on Jan Samarth portal from where it would flow to the portal of NCGTC.

Step 3: Issue of Fresh Guarantee (Sanction of Loan): Once the sanction details are entered by the MLI on Jan Samarth portal, it needs to lodge the guarantee application as per template

provided/to be provided (as in Scheme) by NCGTC on the portal of NCGTC. The system would automatically validate the guarantee lodgement details along with application number and sanction details received from Jan Samarth portal and generate a Credit Guarantee Permanent Account Number (CGPAN) after payment of Guarantee Fees for the lender's future reference.

Step 4: Tranche Disbursement Details Reporting Disbursement: For each tranche of the loan disbursed, the MLI must enter the disbursement details into the Jan Samarth portalediately, whereupon the data shall flow to the NCGTC portal through an API. At the same time, the MLI may apply for the credit guarantee and accept the management certificate on NCGTC portal.

Step 5: In case of continuing default thereafter and account being declared as NPA as per RBI guidelines, the MLI shall initiate recovery measures as decided at the time of sanction and deemed possible;

Step 6: After 90 days of account turning NPA, the MLI will be eligible to invoke the guarantee and apply for claim settlement on the NCGTC's portal with requisite information/documents; the MLI may invoke the guarantee maximum within 1 year of Account Turning NPA;

Step 7: The eligible claim amount shall be settled by NCGTC within 30 days of the filing of the claim, subject to the same being found to be in compliance with the Scheme guidelines.

15. Appropriation of amount realized by the member lending institution in respect of a credit facility after the guarantee has been invoked

Post invocation of the guarantee claims (interim or final), if any recoveries are made in the account, MLIs shall first adjust such recoveries towards the legal costs incurred by them for recovery of the amount and shall thereafter remit to NCGTC the balance recoveries in the proportion of losses which shall be shared proportionately.

16. Agreement to be executed by the member lending institution

(a) A member lending institution shall not be entitled to a guarantee in respect of any eligible credit facility granted by it unless it has submitted an Undertaking with the Trustee Company in such form as may be required by the Trustee Company for covering by way of guarantee, under the Scheme all the eligible credit facilities granted by the lending institution, for which provision has been made in the Scheme.

(b) All interested and eligible MLIs are required to submit the Undertaking to NCGTC for the purpose of this Scheme.

17. Responsibilities of member lending institution under the Scheme:

(i) The Lending institution shall assess the feasibility and viability of the project as per its

standards. The Technical Economic Viability (TEV) Report shall be submitted to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) after sanction of the loan and prior to disbursement, as and when requied by MoPNG.

(ii) The lending institution shall closely monitor the borrower account, and shall put in all required efforts to ensure that the account is serviced regularly;

(iii) Upon account turning NPA, the lending institution shall take immediate necessary steps for recovery of its dues;

(iv) The lending institution shall ensure that the guarantee claim in respect of the credit facility is lodged with the Trustee Company in the form and in the manner and within such time as may be specified by the Trustee Company in this behalf and that there are no delays on its part to notify the default in the borrowers account which shall result in the Trustee Company facing higher guarantee claims.

(v) The payment of guarantee claim by the Trustee Company to the lending institution does not in any way take away the responsibility of the lending institution to recover the entire outstanding amount of the credit from the borrower. The lending institution shall exercise all the necessary precautions and maintain its recourse to the borrower for entire amount of credit facility owed by it and initiate all necessary actions for recovery of the outstanding amount, including such action as may be advised by the Trustee Company.

(vi) The lending institution shall comply with such directions as may be issued by the Trustee Company from time to time for facilitating recoveries in the guaranteed account, or safeguarding its interest as a guarantor, as the Trustee Company may deem fit and the lending institution shall be bound to comply with such directions.

(vii) The lending institution shall, in respect of any guaranteed account, exercise the same diligence in recovering the dues, and safeguarding the interest of the Trustee Company in all the ways open to it as it might have exercised in the normal course if no guarantee had been furnished by the Trustee Company. The lending institution shall, in particular, refrain from any act of omission or commission, either before or subsequent to invocation of guarantee, which may adversely affect the interest of the Trustee Company as the guarantor.

18. Status of the borrower account on the date of sanction / disbursement

The borrower account, otherwise eligible under the scheme, should not be an NPA with any lender as on the date of sanction / disbursement of loan under the Scheme.

19. Subrogation of rights and recoveries on account of claims paid

(i) The lending institution shall furnish to the Trust, the details of its efforts for recovery, realizations and such other information as may be demanded or required from time to time. The

lending institution, wherever possible, will hold lien on assets created out of the credit facility extended to the borrower, on its own behalf and on behalf of the Trust. The Trust shall not exercise any subrogation rights and that the responsibility of the recovery of dues shall rest with the lending institution.

(ii) In the event of a borrower owing several distinct and separate debts to the lending institution and making payments towards any one or more of the same, whether the account towards which the payment is made is covered by the guarantee of the Trust or not, such payments shall, for the purpose of this clause, be deemed to have been appropriated by the lending institution to the debt covered by the guarantee and in respect of which a claim has been preferred and paid, irrespective of the manner of appropriation indicated by such borrower or the manner in which such payments are actually appropriated.

(iii) Every amount recovered and due to be paid to the Trust shall be paid without delay, and if any amount due to the Trust remains unpaid beyond a period of 30 days from the date on which it was first recovered, interest shall be payable to the Trust by the lending institution at the rate which is 4% above Repo Rate for the period for which payment remains outstanding after the expiry of the said period of 30 days.

20. Fund's liability to be terminated in certain cases

(i) If the liabilities of a borrower to the lending institution on account of credit facility guaranteed under this Scheme are transferred or assigned to any other borrower and if the conditions as to the eligibility of the borrower, the amount of the credit facility and any other terms and conditions, if any, subject to which the credit facility can be guaranteed under the Scheme are not satisfied after the said transfer or assignment, the guarantee in respect of the credit facility shall be deemed to be terminated as from the date of the said transfer or assignment.

(ii) If a borrower becomes ineligible for being granted credit facility under the Scheme, the liability of the Fund in respect of credit facility granted to him by a lending institution under the Scheme shall be limited to the liability of the borrower to the lending institution as on the date on which the borrower becomes so ineligible, subject, however, to the limits on the liability of the Fund fixed under this Scheme.

21. Returns and Inspections

The lending institution shall submit such statements and furnish such information as the Fund may require in connection with guarantee under this Scheme.

(i) The lending institution shall also furnish to NCGTC all such documents, receipts, certificates and other writings as the latter may require and shall be deemed to have affirmed that the contents of such documents, receipts, certificates and other writings are true, provided that no claim shall be rejected and no liability shall attach to the lending institution or any officer thereof

for anything done in good faith.

(ii) The Fund shall, insofar as it may be necessary for the purposes of the Scheme, have the right to inspect or call for copies of the books of account and other records (including any book of instructions or manual or circulars covering general instructions regarding conduct of advances) of the lending institution, and of any borrower from the lending institution. Such inspection may be carried out through the officers of the Fund or any other person appointed by the Fund for the purpose of inspection. Every officer or other employee of the lending institution or the borrower, who is in a position to do so, shall make available to the officers of the Fund or the person appointed for the inspection as the case may be, the books of account and other records and information which are in his possession.

(iii) The accounts of the Trust Fund will have full details of the deposits, revenue earned and expenditure incurred by way of Management Fees and shall be subject to audit by a Statutory Auditor appointed on advice of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).

22. Interpretation

If any question arises in regard to the interpretation of any of the provisions of the Scheme or of any directions or instructions or clarifications given in connection therewith, the decision of the Fund shall be final.

23. Supplementary and general provisions

In respect of any matter not specifically provided for in this Scheme, the PAC may make such supplementary or additional provisions or issue such instructions or clarifications as may be necessary for the purpose of the Scheme.

24. Modifications in the Scheme

Any changes to the current structure of the Scheme, including but not limited to the eligibility criteria of lenders/borrowers, rate of interest on loans etc., shall be approved by the Hon'ble Minister, PNG.

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Component VI: CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund under GOBARdhan

1. Introduction

1.1 Reference is invited to the GOBARdhan Scheme approved on August 6th, 2026. These guidelines are issued under Component VI of the Scheme titled 'CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund'.

2. Objective

2.1 The objective of the Fund is to support CBG ecosystem development, including addressing unforeseen gaps, development of domestic CBG equipment, process improvement, yield improvement, value addition of by-products such as Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) and Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM), and district-level ecosystem development.

2.2 The Fund shall also encourage competition among District Administrations for CBG sector development, including feedstock resource assessment and mapping, development of feedstock aggregation and supporting infrastructure, preparation of district-level CBG development plans, capacity building, stakeholder awareness and mobilisation, and other ecosystem-development activities approved by MoPNG.

3. Fund Structure and Allocation

3.1 The total outlay under Component VI shall be ₹500 crore for the period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

3.2 The Fund shall operate through the following two sub-components: (a) District CBG Challenge Programme; and (b) Ecosystem Enablement.

3.3 The two sub-components shall operate independently. Participation by a District Administration under the District CBG Challenge Programme shall not, by itself, restrict the consideration of a separate eligible proposal under Ecosystem Enablement.

3.4 Financial Assistance under the Fund shall be selective, outcome-oriented and subject to appraisal, approval, execution of a sanction agreement or other approved instrument, and verification of milestones. Submission of an application shall not create any right or entitlement to Financial Assistance.

3.5 The Project Approval Board may determine annual priorities, category-wise ceilings, proposal windows, funding pattern and other operational modalities, consistent with these Guidelines and the approved scope of the Scheme.

4. Sub-Component A: District CBG Challenge Programme

4.1 MoPNG shall organize an annual District CBG Challenge Programme to encourage competition among District Administrations for development of the CBG ecosystem.

4.2 Applications shall be submitted through the GOBARdhan Portal by the District Collector/ District Magistrate.

4.3 District performance shall be assessed against parameters specified in Appendix I.

4.4 The Project Management Agency (PMA) shall verify the information submitted by District Administrations and evaluate eligible applications in accordance with the parameters, weightages and scoring methodology.

4.5 Based on such evaluation, the PMA shall prepare a district-wise ranking and place the results before the Project Approval Board (PAB).

4.6 At the end of each Financial Year, the top three (3) District Administrations shall be eligible for an award of ₹5 crore each under the CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund. The rest of the top ten (10) District Administrations shall be eligible for ₹2 crore each. The manner of release and permitted utilization of the award shall be specified by the PMA with approval of the PAB.

4.7 The award under the District CBG Challenge Programme shall be independent of Financial Assistance that may separately be sanctioned to a District Administration for an eligible proposal under Sub-Component B.

5. Sub-Component B: Ecosystem Enablement

5.1 This sub-component shall support sector-wide and scalable interventions that address priority gaps in the CBG ecosystem and deliver measurable outputs capable of wider adoption, replication, deployment or public benefit.

5.2 Eligible activities may include:

5.2.1 Development and deployment of domestic CBG equipment and related technologies.

5.2.2 Process improvement, yield improvement and related performance enhancement in CBG plants.

5.2.3 Value addition, processing and utilisation of CBG by-products, including Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) and Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM).

5.2.4 Any unforeseen gap in the CBG ecosystem or any other CBG ecosystem-development interventions approved by MoPNG, including activities supporting feedstock aggregation and related infrastructure.

5.3 Eligible Applicants

5.3.1 The following entities shall be eligible to apply under this sub-component:

i. CBG project developers;

ii. Recognised research and academic institutions;

iii. Start-ups; and

iv. Central Public Sector Enterprises.

5.4 Funding Pattern

5.4.1 Financial Assistance shall be provided as a grant for approved activities.

5.4.2 Financial Assistance may be provided up to 50% of the eligible project cost. The balance project cost shall be borne by the applicant.

5.4.3 In exceptional cases, the PAB may approve Financial Assistance exceeding 50% of the eligible project cost, having regard to the merits of the proposal, nature of the intervention, expected sectoral benefit, applicant contribution, reasonableness of cost and availability of funds.

5.4.4 Financial Assistance shall not be provided for the same scope of work for which assistance has been sanctioned or received under another Central Government scheme.

5.5 Selection and Approval Process

5.5.1 The PMA shall issue a Request for Selection, specifying the eligible activities, proposal format, submission timeline, evaluation criteria and other applicable conditions.

5.5.2 Applicants shall submit proposals in the manner and format specified by the PMA, along with supporting documents, implementation plan, milestones, expected outputs, cost estimates and funding requirement.

5.5.3 The PMA shall scrutinise the proposals for eligibility and completeness and may seek additional documents or clarifications from applicants.

5.5.4 Eligible proposals shall be placed before the CBG Advisory Committee for technical evaluation. The Committee may seek presentations, clarifications or modifications to the proposed scope, milestones, cost or implementation plan.

5.5.5 The CBG Advisory Committee shall recommend eligible proposals to the PAB and may specify conditions necessary to safeguard Government interest and ensure timely completion of the approved activity.

5.5.6 The PAB shall approve, modify, defer or reject proposals and determine the admissible Financial Assistance and applicable conditions.

5.6 Implementation, Disbursement and Monitoring.

5.6.1 The approved applicant shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the PMA, setting out the approved scope, milestones, deliverables, project cost, disbursement schedule, reporting requirements and other conditions.

5.6.2 Financial Assistance shall be released in instalments upon achievement and verification of the applicable milestones, subject to submission of utilisation documents and compliance with the Memorandum of Agreement.

5.6.3 The PMA shall monitor approved activities and may undertake site visits, technical reviews, audits or other verification as necessary.

5.6.4 Where an applicant fails to comply with the approved scope, milestones or conditions of the Memorandum of Agreement, the PAB may suspend further releases, modify or cancel the approval, recover Financial Assistance already released, or take such other action as may be appropriate.

6. Institutional Framework

6.1 Project Approval Board

6.1.1 The Project Approval Board, chaired by the Secretary, MoPNG, shall be the competent authority for approval of projects and sanction of Financial Assistance under this component.

6.1.2 The PAB shall approve the operational methodology and procedures for appraisal and evaluation of applications, consistent with the assessment parameters and weightages specified in these Guidelines.

6.2 Project Management Agency

6.2.1 The Centre for High Technology shall function as the Project Management Agency for implementation of this component, unless otherwise notified by MoPNG.

6.2.2 The PMA shall receive and scrutinise applications, undertake preliminary appraisal, monitor implementation of approved projects, review milestone achievements and recommend release of Financial Assistance.

6.2.3 The PMA shall place eligible proposals before the CBG Advisory Committee for technical evaluation.

6.2.4 The PMA may engage experts, research institutions, technical agencies, public sector enterprises, industry representatives and other domain specialists for appraisal, monitoring, testing, validation or evaluation.

6.2.5 The PMA shall issue proposal formats, appraisal methodologies, reporting formats, standard operating procedures and other implementation documents required for administration of this component.

6.3 CBG Advisory Committee

6.3.1 A CBG Advisory Committee shall be constituted for the technical evaluation of proposals received under the Ecosystem Enablement Sub-Component.

6.3.2 The CBG Advisory Committee shall be chaired by the Joint Secretary (Gas), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

6.3.3 The Committee shall comprise:

i. One officer not below the rank of Executive Director nominated by each of Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and GAIL (India) Limited;

ii. One senior officer having relevant technical or technology-development experience nominated by each of the Central Public Sector Enterprises specified in Clause 6.3.3(i); and

iii. Executive Director – CHT shall serve as the Member-Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee may invite experts from Government bodies, technical or academic institutions, industry, testing and certification agencies, or other relevant organisations as special invitees, depending on the nature of the proposals under consideration.

6.3.4 The CBG Advisory Committee shall:

i. Technically evaluate eligible proposals placed before it by the PMA in accordance with the criteria specified in the Request for Selection;

ii. Assess the technical feasibility, relevance to the CBG ecosystem, expected sectoral benefit, scalability, potential for wider adoption, proposed outputs, implementation plan, milestones and reasonableness of cost;

iii. Seek presentations, clarifications, additional information or modifications to the proposed scope, cost, milestones, deliverables or implementation plan, where necessary;

iv. Recommend eligible proposals to the PAB, together with the proposed scope, milestones, deliverables, Financial Assistance and such conditions as may be necessary to safeguard Government interest and ensure timely completion;

v. Recommend rejection, deferment or reconsideration of proposals that do not meet the applicable requirements; and

vi. Undertake such other technical evaluation or advisory functions as may be assigned by the PAB or MoPNG.

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Appendix-I

Evaluation Parameters for District CBG Challenge Programme

District Administrations shall submit the required information and supporting documents through the GOBARdhan Portal in the format specified by the PMA. The PMA shall verify the submissions and evaluate District Administrations on the following parameters:

S. No.	Evaluation Parameter	Information/ Unit	Weightage
1.	Single window for application for all specified district-level approvals	Yes/ No	20%
2	Average Turnaround Time for District-Level Approvals received in the financial year	Number of Calendar Days	20%
3	Whether the feedstock mapping in district has been completed to assess the potential of CBG production capacity	Tehsil wise/ feedstock type wise tons of feedstock available	20%
4	Total quantity of organic manure utilized by district departments/ other usage facilitated by district administration in the financial year	Number of Kgs of organic manure derived from CBG plants	20%
5	Number of IEC activities conducted on following activities: - Promote usage of organic manure - Educational Activities to avoid parali burning - Feedstock aggregation for CBG plants	Number of activities	20%

1. The PMA will specify the applicable assessment period, information requirements, list of district-level approvals, documentary evidence and detailed scoring methodology, with the approval of the PAB.

2. Districts shall be ranked based on their aggregate score. In the event of a tie, the District having the higher score under Parameter 3 shall be ranked higher. If the tie continues, the District having the lower average turnaround time under Parameter 2 shall be ranked higher.

3. For Parameters 2 and 3, a Unique CBG Plant Application shall mean an application relating to one identifiable CBG plant or project. Irrespective of the number of individual applications, permissions, approvals or clearances required for the plant, each CBG plant shall be counted only once.