

# Monthly Report On Agricultural and Rural Financing<sup>1</sup>



**September, 2014**



**Research Department  
Bangladesh Bank**

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<sup>1</sup> The report has been prepared by Internal and Islamic Economics Division, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank (Central Bank of Bangladesh). Comments on any aspects of the report are highly welcome and can be sent to Ms. Farida Parveen, Deputy General Manager, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank. E-mail: farida.parveen@bb.org.bd or Ms. Asma Akter, Assistant Director, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank. E-mail: asma.akter7117@bb.org.bd.

# **Report Preparation Committee**

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*“Bangladesh Bank has been supporting the government’s inclusive growth efforts by promoting inclusive financing of all productive initiatives including those of the traditionally underserved farm & nonfarm SMEs and other innovative niche area entrepreneurs. BB’s inclusive financing promotion takes place within the overall monetary growth envelop of monetary programs designed to maintain price stability and macro-financial stability”<sup>2</sup>*

*-- Governor, Bangladesh Bank*

## **Overview of Agricultural and Rural Financing**

In order to ensure food security, employment generation and speed up farm and non-farm activities in rural areas in Bangladesh, rural finance plays an important role. Bangladesh Bank (BB) has taken a number of initiatives to increase flow of funds in rural areas through agricultural credit programme and SME loans under its intensive financial inclusion strategies. BB has directed all private and foreign banks to disburse at least 2 percent of their total loan and advance as agricultural credit and banks have put in place an effective monitoring system to ensure timely and hassle free disbursement of necessary amount of credit to the real farmers. Agricultural diversification by disbursing more resources in both crop and non-crop sectors and crop intensification by adding new varieties is essential in order to enhance agricultural growth. BB also pursues inclusive monetary policy for serving unbanked people to achieve sustainable economic growth. The highlights of the agricultural and rural financing report are:

- In FY15 annual agricultural credit disbursement target has been fixed at Tk. 15,550.00 crore which is Tk. 955.00 crore or 6.54 percent higher than previous year’s credit disbursement target of Tk. 14,595.00 crore.
- In September 2014, actual agricultural credit disbursement by all scheduled banks under annual agricultural credit programme stood at Tk. 1,043.45 crore. During July-September of FY15 total agricultural credit disbursement stood at Tk. 2,750.41 crore. The target attainment up to September 2014 was 17.69 percent.
- In September 2014, recovery of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 1,155.86 crore. During July-September of FY15 total agricultural credit recovery stood at Tk. 3,258.87 crore.
- Banks did not avail of any refinance facilities from Bangladesh Bank in September 2014. An amount of Tk. 30.00 crore was recovered against past refinance loan due from different banks and institutions. During July-September of FY15 these institutions availed Tk. 500.00 crore refinance and recovered Tk. 90.00 crore.
- In September 2014 Grameen Bank and other large NGOs disbursed Tk. 4,541.97 crore as microcredit and recovered Tk. 4,195.84 crore.

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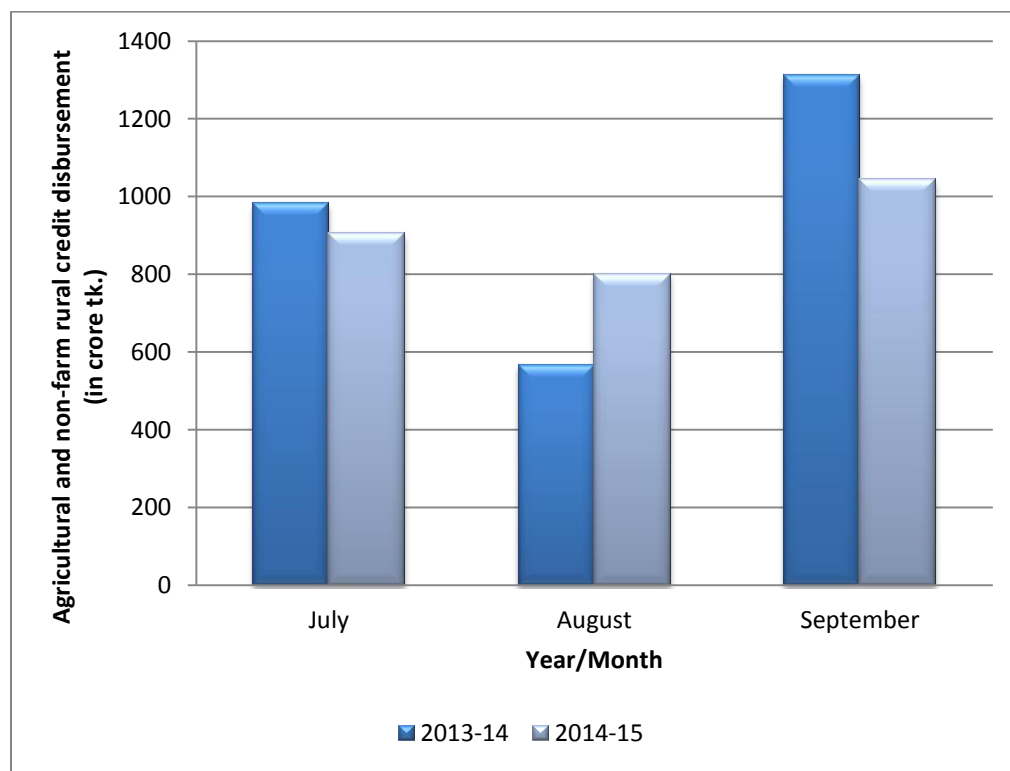
<sup>2</sup> Extract from the Governor Dr. Atiur Rahman’s 2013 OMFIF- Golden Series Lecture in London on Recent socio-economic trends and prospects in Bangladesh: Stability supportive use of inclusive financing.

## Target

The disbursement target by all scheduled banks has been fixed at Tk. 15,550.00 crore for FY15 which is Tk. 955.00 crore or 6.54 percent higher than previous year's credit disbursement target of Tk. 14,595.00 crore. The disbursement target of all state-owned banks (Commercial and Specialized) has been fixed at Tk. 9,140.00 crore and PCBs & FCBs target has been fixed at Tk. 6,410.00 crore which is 58.77 percent and 41.22 percent of total agricultural credit disbursement target respectively. The Agricultural and Rural Credit Policy and Programme for 2014-15 has been formulated with the goal of extending the credit support in achieving desired level of agricultural production, food security, poverty alleviation and to promote financial inclusion.

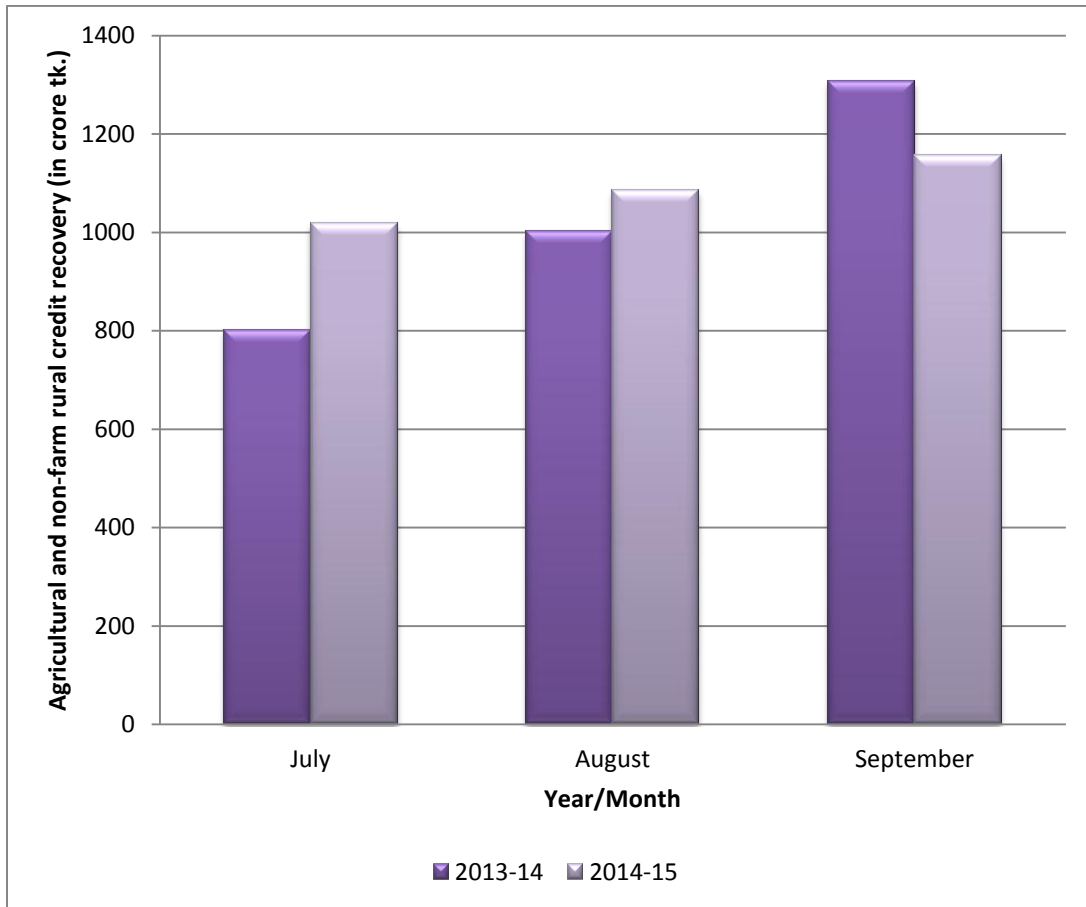
## Disbursement

In September 2014 actual agricultural credit disbursement under the annual agricultural credit disbursement programme, stood at Tk. 1,043.45 crore, which was Tk. 802.43 crore and Tk. 1,312.08 crore in the previous month and the same month of previous year respectively. In July-September of FY15, actual agricultural credit disbursement stood at Tk. 2,750.41 crore which was Tk. 2,861.58 crore in the same period of previous year. The target attainment up to September 2014 was 17.69 percent.



## Recovery

In September 2014, recovery of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 1,155.86 crore which was Tk. 1,085.42 crore and Tk. 1,306.45 crore in the previous month and the same month of previous year respectively. In July-September of FY15 agricultural credit recovery stood at Tk. 3,258.87 crore which was Tk. 3,107.50 crore in the same period of previous year.



## Refinance

In September 2014 none of the institutions has availed of any refinance facilities from Bangladesh Bank. An amount of Tk. 30.00 crore was recovered against past refinance loan due from different banks and institutions which was the same amount in the previous month. In July-September of FY15 the amount of refinance facilities from Bangladesh Bank stood at Tk. 500.00 crore which was Tk. 300.00 crore in the same period of previous year. During the period total Tk. 90.00 crore was recovered against past refinance loan, which was Tk. 525.75 crore in the same period of previous year.

## **Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)**

In September 2014 Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has disbursed Tk. 49.49 crore by its own financing and recovered Tk. 52.59 crore which was Tk. 46.08 crore and Tk. 40.14 crore in the previous month respectively. During July-September of FY15 BRDBs agricultural credit disbursement and recovery stood at Tk. 147.41 and Tk. 143.87 crore respectively.

### **Agricultural credit program to the sharecroppers**

A special agricultural credit programme named “Agricultural credit programme to the sharecroppers” has been taken by Bangladesh Bank in fiscal year 2009-10 with an amount of Tk. 500.00 crore as revolving fund under the refinance scheme of Bangladesh Bank and is being implemented by the country’s leading Micro Finance Institution (MFI) BRAC. As the programme has been playing an important role in poverty alleviation of sharecroppers, after the completion of the programme in June 2012, its duration has been increased for another 3 years from July, 2012 to June, 2015. At this stage, crops / crop cultivation and agricultural machinery purchase credit facility will be provided to 5 (five) million sharecroppers outside the purview of bank loan from 250 Upazila of 48 districts of the country. Tk. 65.49 crore has been disbursed during July-September of FY15.

Therefore, total agricultural credit disbursement stood at Tk. 2,963.31 crore including all scheduled banks (Tk. 2,750.41 crore), agricultural credit to sharecroppers under refinance of Bangladesh Bank (Tk. 65.49 crore) and BRDB’s agricultural and rural credit from its own fund (Tk. 147.41 crore) during July-September of FY15.

## **Bangladesh Shomobay Bank Limited (BSBL)**

In September 2014, specialized bank BSBL has disbursed Tk. 0.32 crore and recovered Tk. 0.56 crore which was Tk. 0.27 crore and Tk. 0.71 crore respectively in the previous month. During July-September of FY15 BSBL has disbursed Tk. 1.18 crore and recovered Tk. 2.06 crore.

### **Microcredit Operations by Grameen Bank & NGOs**

In September 2014, Grameen Bank and other large nine NGOs (BRAC, ASA, Proshika, TMSS, RDRS Bangladesh, CARITAS Bangladesh, Jagoroni Chakra Foundation, Society for Social Services [SSS], Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women) loan disbursement on income generating productive rural activities under their microcredit programme stood at Tk. 4,541.97 crore through their around 9,416 branches reached to 23.26 million members with the aim of poverty eradication. Grameen Bank, BRAC and ASA have been playing the major role in micro credit disbursement with 87.80 percent share in total disbursement of September 2014. In September 2014, recovery became Tk. 4,195.84 crore.

### **Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF)<sup>3</sup>**

Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) has financed Tk. 116.65 crore to its 273 POs (partner organizations) in the month of July 2014 and recovered Tk. 139.04 crore. Up to July 2014 PKSF's outstanding balance and overdue stood at Tk. 3680.73 crore and Tk. 215.27 crore respectively.

### **Measures Taken by Bangladesh Bank to Facilitate Rural Financing during July-September, 2014**

- The Agricultural and Rural Credit Policy and programme for the fiscal year 2014-2015 has been declared. All scheduled banks operating in Bangladesh and the BRDB have been advised to instruct their concerned sections to follow and implement the policy and programme and to inform the ACFID about the sector/sub-sector based branch-wise and Micro-finance based (where applicable) credit target under the total targeted programme. (Ref: ACFID Circular No. 01; 21 July 2014)
- It has been decided to further extend credits on concessional rates to the flood affected farmers of 21 districts with a view to keeping production of crops including aman, fisheries, winter crops and import substitute crops (pulses, oilseeds, spices, maize) uninterrupted. All the scheduled banks have to monitor that the affected farmers get credits timely according to their demand without harassments. (Ref: ACFID Circular No. 02; 11 September 2014)

### **Conclusion**

Bangladesh Bank is very positive in line with Government efforts to take proactive policy and programme support to increase agricultural production. However, during July-September, 2014 it is observed that agricultural credit disbursement in some sectors such as irrigation equipment, agri-equipment, fisheries and grain storage & marketing is lower than the same period of the previous year. Therefore, to promote the stakeholders of the rural areas aiming to boost up crop production, there is a scope to speed up credit disbursement and provide refinance facility at a lower interest rate in these sectors. Moreover, agricultural diversification is important to promote agricultural growth.

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<sup>3</sup> Provisional data of July, 2014 has been used due to unavailability of data.