

RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FUND (RIDF)

India's is an agrarian economy with about 80% of the population living in villages and agriculture practices being the major source of income.

Apart from small holdings, the other problems plaguing Indian Agriculture is soil and land erosion, depleted ground water table, uncontrolled run off-all bodies to loss of productivity.

To mitigate the problems and restraining soil and land erosion, recharging of ground water table and arresting uncontrolled run off RIDF schemes have been taken up to achieve success in these endeavours.

The RIDF Tranches presently implemented in the State are stated below :

RIDF Tranches	Sanction by NABARD (Rs. In Lakhs)
RIDF XIX	486.12
RIDF XX	1863.33
RIDF XXII	2036.21

RIDF XIX and RIDF XX was operational during 2016-17. Sanction for RIDF XXII was obtained in the month of March, 2017. Administrative approval has also been accorded for RIDF XXII. The table shows the total outlay and utilisation in the different RIDF schemes :

(Rs. In Lakhs)							
Sl. No.	Tranche	Division	Sanction by NABARD	Scheme	Fund Released by Deptt.	Claim Submitted	Remarks
1.	XIX	Kurseong Soil	486.12	Aff. & all	386.23	386.23	Scheme Closed
2.	XX	14 Divisions	618.10	Nurseries	600.13	600.13	Scheme Closed
3.		Kharagpur	439.45	Bota. Park	381.51	381.51	
4.		24 Pgs (S)	402.89	Jetties	87.57	87.57	
5.		STR	402.89	Jetties	128.47	128.47	
6.	XXI	Scheme not sanctioned.					
7.	XXII	Will start being implemented from 2017-18. Total approved cost Rs. 20.3621 crores.					

Among different works undertaken under RIDF schemes plantation and soil work has been greatly emphasized. Bringing degraded and blank areas under plantation service multiple purposes- (1) stabilising soil and checking erosion, (2) containing run off and (3) improving the soil moisture content and replenishing the ground water level RIDF XIX addressed these issues in North Bengal and plains and structural works for checking soil erosion and soil moisture conservation. RIDF XX has addressed the issue of raising quality planting material in centralised places raising quality plantation which will not only improve soil and soil moisture condition but will also improve the biodiversity and ecology of the area.

As per decision of the High Power Committee no fund has been allotted to the Forest Department during the year 2017-18. However, as per Finance Department the required fund will be provided from the core budget.