

**Monthly Report On
Agricultural and Rural Financing¹**



January 2022

**Research Department
(Internal Economic Wing)
Bangladesh Bank**

¹Comments on any aspects of the report are highly welcome and can be sent to Mohammed Abdul Halim, General Manager, Research Department, Bangladesh Bank. E-mail: mohammad.abdul@bb.org.bd.

Executive Summary

The agriculture sector plays a significant role in the economy of Bangladesh from the perspective of contribution to Gross Domestic Production (GDP), food security, poverty alleviation and employment creation. Though the contributions of the agricultural sector in GDP have declined with the rising share of industrial sector over the years, it still accounts for 13.35 percent share of GDP in FY21. It plays an immense role in maintaining food security for 166.50 million people, keeping food prices stable and generating employment for 40.6 percent of total labor force. Obviously, it is imperative to adequately support the agriculture and rural sectors to attain two vital Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely, SDG number one (No Poverty) and SDG number two (Zero Hunger). As agriculture sector still remains as one of the top priority sectors in the economy, Bangladesh Bank (BB) has continued its active support to boost up this sector by ensuring adequate supply of credit with the involvement of public (commercial and specialized) and private banks. Given this, BB formulates and implements Annual Agricultural and Rural Credit Policy and Program in order to ensure adequate flow of funds in rural areas to support the agricultural sector.

The annual agricultural credit disbursement target was fixed at Tk. 28391.00 crores for FY22, which was 7.98 percent higher than Tk. 26292.00 crores targeted in FY21. During July 2021-January 2022, the achievement was 60.07 percent of the total disbursement target for FY22.

In **January 2022**, actual agricultural credit disbursement by all banks stood at Tk 2558.56 crores, which was 23.56 percent higher than Tk. 2070.74 crores for the same month of the preceding year. Recovery of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 1870.83 crores in **January 2022**, which was 4.80 percent lower than Tk. 1965.17 crores for the same month of the preceding year.

During **July 2021-January 2022**, total agricultural credit disbursement stood at **Tk. 17055.60 crores**, which was 20.55 percent higher than **Tk. 14148.72 crores during July 2020-January 2021**. Total recovery of agricultural credit stood at **Tk. 15464.63 crores during July 2021-January 2022**, which was 3.68 percent lower than **Tk. 16056.24 crores recovery in July 2020-January 2021**.

Outstanding balance (including interest) of agricultural credit stood at **Tk. 48355.34 crores at the end of January 2022**, which was 9.10 percent higher than Tk. 44321.71 crores at the end of **January 2021**. Overdue of agricultural credit stood at **Tk. 7386.03 crores at the end of January 2022**, which was **14.25 percent** higher than **Tk. 6464.92 crores at the end of January 2021**. Overdue of agricultural credit as percentage of outstanding stood lower at **15.27 percent at the end of January 2022 compared to 14.59 percent at the end of January 2021**.

In **January 2022**, Grameen Bank and other nine large NGOs disbursed Tk. 12855.28 crores as microcredit and recovered Tk. 11257.93 crores. The total outstanding balance of microcredit of these organizations stood at Tk. 80016.52 crores, of which the overdue of microcredit stood at Tk. 4960.24 crores at the end of **January 2022**.

Bangladesh Bank is continuously providing policy directions to promote sustainable inclusive economic growth and to expedite credit flow to all sub-sectors of agriculture and non-farm activities.

Disbursement Target

The disbursement targets by all scheduled banks were fixed at Tk. 28391.00 crores for FY22, which was 7.98 percent higher than Tk. 26292.00 crores targeted for FY21 and 11.29 percent higher than actual disbursement in FY21. The disbursement targets of all State-Owned Commercial Banks (SOCBs) and State-Owned Specialized Banks (SOSBs), and Private Commercial Banks (PCBs) and Foreign Commercial Banks (FCBs) were fixed at Tk. 11045.00 crores and Tk. 17346.00 crores respectively, which had 38.90 percent and 61.10 percent shares respectively of the total agricultural credit disbursement target.

Disbursement

In January 2022, the actual disbursement of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 2558.56 crores, which was 31.29 percent lower than Tk. 3723.49 crores for the previous month. On the other hand, the disbursement in January 2022 was 23.56 percent higher than Tk. 2070.74 crores for the same month of the preceding year (Chart 1). During July 2021-January 2022, the actual disbursement of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 17055.60 crores, which was 20.55 percent higher than Tk. 14148.72 crores in the same period of the preceding year. The achievement was 60.07 percent of the total disbursement target for FY22.

During July 2021-January 2022, 47.3 percent of the total agriculture credit was distributed to the crop sub-sector followed by live-stock & poultry (17.0%), others (15.6%), fisheries (12.4%), and poverty alleviation (7.7%). On the other hand, the share of crops sector was 54.3%, followed by live-stock & poultry (14.3%), others (13.6%), fisheries (11.1%) and poverty alleviation (6.7%) during July-January 2021.

Chart 1

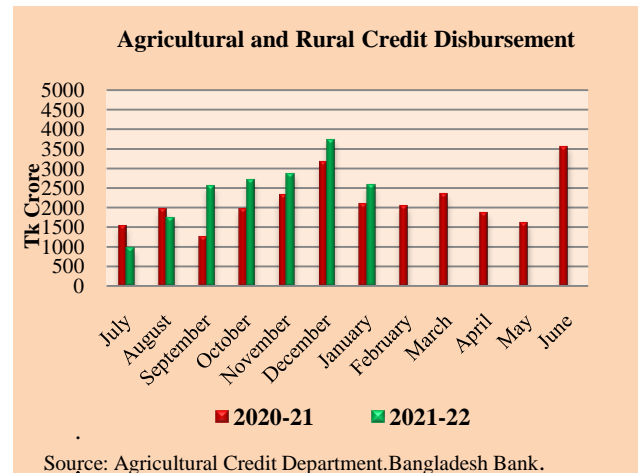
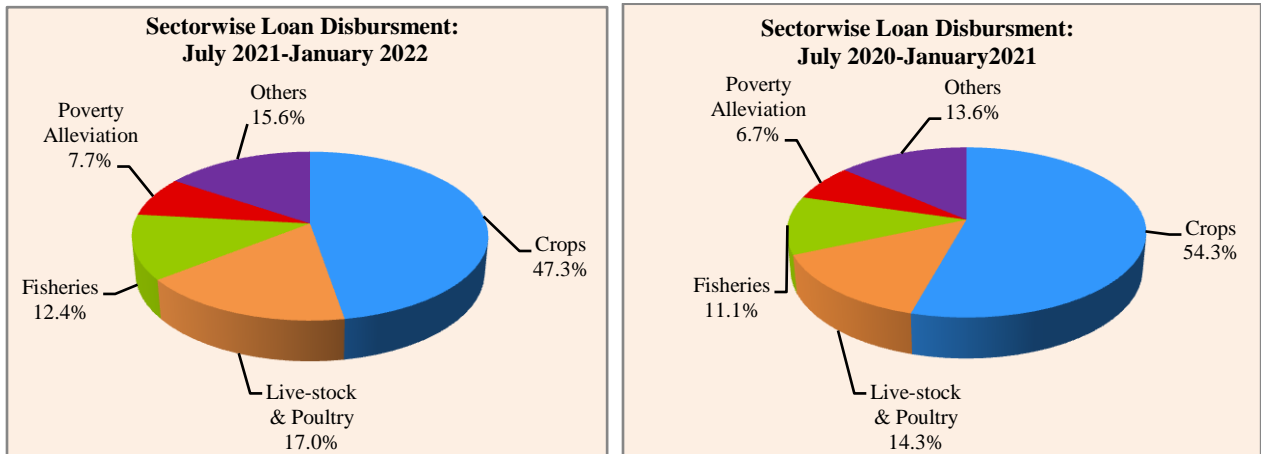


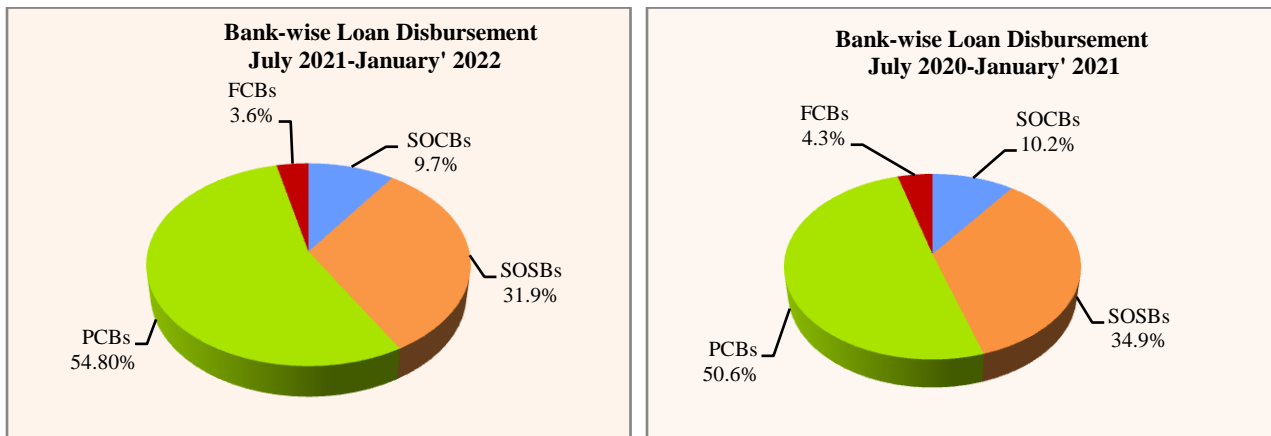
Chart 2



Source: Agricultural Credit Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Among the cluster of banks, PCBs' share in loan disbursement was 54.8 percent followed by SOSBs (31.9%), SOCBs (9.7%) and FCBs (3.6%) during July 2021-January 2022, whereas PCBs disbursed 50.6 percent, followed by SOSBs (34.9%), SOCBs (10.2%) and FCBs (4.3%) during July 2020-January 2021. Chart 2 and Chart 3 show sector-wise and bank-wise loan disbursement respectively in July 2021-January 2022 and July 2020-January 2021.

Chart 3



Source: Agricultural Credit Department, Bangladesh Bank.

Recovery

In January 2022, the recovery of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 1870.83 crores, which was 42.52 percent lower than Tk. 3254.78 crores for the previous month. In the same manner, it was 4.80 percent lower than Tk. 1965.17 crores for same month of the preceding year (Chart 4).

During July 2021-January 2022, the recovery stood at Tk 15464.63 crores, which was 3.68 percent lower than Tk. 16056.24 crores in the same period of the last year.

Among the type of banks, PCBs' share in recovery was 47.6 percent followed by SOSBs (38.7%), SOCBs (10.8%) and FCBs (2.9%) during July 2021-January 2022, whereas PCBs recovered 52.6 percent, followed by SOSBs (35.7%), SOCBs (7.5%) and FCBs (4.2%), during July 2020-January 2021. Chart 4 shows monthly and Chart 5 shows bank-wise loan recovery for July 2021-January 2022 and July 2020-January 2021.

Chart 4

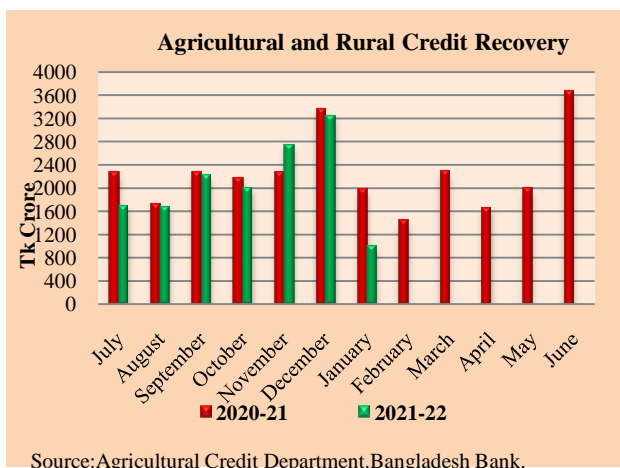
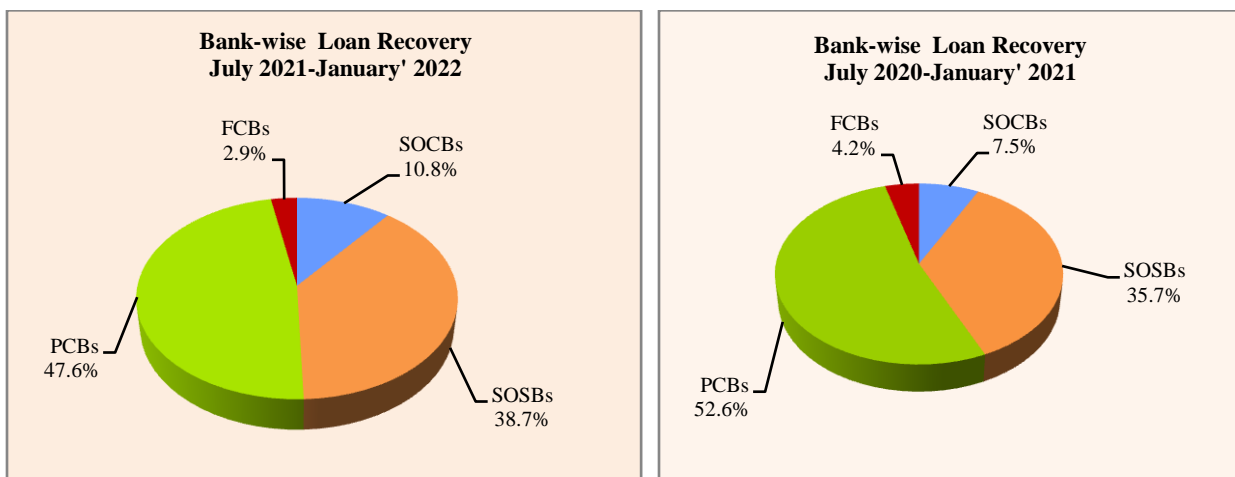


Chart 5



Outstanding

At the end of January 2022, total outstanding balance of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 48355.34 crores, which was 9.10 percent higher than Tk. 44321.71 crores at the end of January 2021.

Overdue

Overdue of agricultural credit stood at Tk. 7386.03 crores at the end of January 2022, which was 14.25 percent higher than Tk. 6464.92 crores at the end of January 2021. Overdue of agricultural credit as percentage of outstanding stood higher at 15.27 percent at the end of January 2022 compared to 14.59 percent at the end of January 2021.

Refinance

Bangladesh Bank extended the repayment schedule of the refinance facility to BKB for a total of Tk. 2000 crores till 30 June 2022, of which Tk. 1000 crores were sanctioned in FY19 and Tk. 1000 crores in FY20. Bangladesh Bank has sanctioned Tk. 500 crores as refinance to RAKUB in FY21. Total outstanding amount of refinance stood at Tk. 2770.63 crores at the end of January 2022, which was Tk 5018.83 crores in January 2021.

Monthly position of disbursement, recovery and outstanding of agricultural credit are shown in Annexure.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)

The disbursement target of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has been fixed at Tk. 1062.50 crores for FY22. In January 2022, it disbursed Tk 88.28 crores and recovered Tk 110.85 crores. In January 2021, it disbursed Tk 109.76 crores and recovered Tk 113.39 crores. During July 2021-January 2022, BRDB disbursed Tk. 618.32 crores and recovered Tk 606.12 crores, which were Tk. 624.96 and Tk. 611.81 crores respectively in the same period of the preceding year.

Bangladesh Shomobay Bank Limited (BSBL)

The disbursement target of BSBL a non-scheduled banks, has been set at Tk. 25.00 crores for FY22. Both in January 2022 and 2021, BSBL didn't disburse any amount but recovered Tk. 0.20 crore and Tk. 0.38 crore respectively. During July 2021-January 2022, BSBL didn't disburse any amount but it recovered Tk. 1.75 crores, which were Tk. 0.25 crores and Tk 2.90 crores respectively during July 2020-January 2021.

Microcredit Operations by Grameen Bank & Large Nine NGOs²

In January 2022, Grameen Bank and large nine NGOs disbursed Tk. 12855.28 crores in productive and income generating activities in the rural areas under their microcredit program, which was 19.15 percent higher than that of the same month of the preceding year. Under this program, about 29.31 million members availed loan facility through 11130 branches. It is noteworthy that Grameen Bank, BRAC and ASA disbursed 83.31 percent of the total microcredit among the top 10 Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) in January 2022. However, in January 2022, total recovery of the microcredit by these 10 MFIs stood at Tk. 11257.93 crores, which was 3.85 percent higher than that of the same month of the preceding year. At the end of January 2022, total outstanding of these 10 MFIs stood at Tk. 80016.52 crores, which was 8.32 percent higher than that of the same month of the preceding year. Overdue of microcredit of these MFIs stood at Tk. 4960.24 crores at the end of January 2022, which was 48.71 percent higher than that of the same month of the preceding year. At the end of January 2022, the overdue as percentage of outstanding stood at only 6.20 percent.

Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation

Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) extended loan facility amounting to Tk. 458.85 crores to its 278 POs (Partner Organizations) and recovered Tk. 300.51 crores in October 2021. Total outstanding balance and overdue stood at Tk. 7074.04 crores and Tk. 219.82 crores respectively at the end of October 2021.

² BRAC, ASA, Proshika, TMSS, RDRS Bangladesh, CARITAS Bangladesh, Jagoroni Chakra Foundation, Society for Social Services [SSS], Shakti Foundation for Disadvantaged Women.

Recent Measures Taken by Bangladesh Bank to Facilitate Rural Financing

- According to the ACD Circular Letter No. 01: 29 July 2021, Bangladesh Bank published Agricultural and Rural Credit Policy and Program for the fiscal year 2021-22. More details information is available in the link:

<https://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/mediaroom/circular/acd/jul292021acd01.pdf>

- According to the ACD Circular Letter No. 02: 14 September 2021, Bangladesh Bank declared refinance scheme of Taka 3000 crores for agriculture sector to combat financial crisis due to Covid-19 pandemic. More details information is available in the link:

<https://www.bb.org.bd/mediaroom/circulars/acd/sep142021acd02.pdf>

- According to the ACD Circular Letter No. 03: 26 October 2021, Bangladesh Bank published Agriculture & Rural Credit Policy and Programme of FY 2021-22 regarding inclusion of new fruits/crops. More details information is available in the link:

<https://www.bb.org.bd/mediaroom/circulars/acd/oct262021acd03.pdf>

- According to the ACD Circular No. 01: 3 January 2022, Bangladesh Bank announced refinance scheme of Taka 500 crore to create employment and to eliminate poverty for the people who returned home due to COVID-19 pandemic and other reasons. More details information is available in the link: **<https://www.bb.org.bd/mediaroom/circulars/acd/jan032022acd01.pdf>**

Bangladesh Bank provides policy directions to expedite credit flow to all sub-sectors in agriculture and non-farm activities in order to promote inclusive economic growth. The agriculture sector has experienced a steady rise in crop production over the years as high attention has been given to the sector. Non-crop sectors like fisheries and livestock & poultry farm are also gaining momentum. The role of the agriculture is immense to encounter environmental calamity and the negative impact of climatic changes. With a view to improving the socio-economic condition of the country along with an underscored role of the agriculture and rural sector, agricultural and rural credit policy and program are being implemented through all scheduled banks. Agricultural production must be boosted up by raising productivity through channeling more credit as well as encouragement to use latest technology in both crop and non-crop sectors, which is also necessary to enhance sustainable growth of the sector.

Monthly Agricultural-Credit Performance by the Scheduled Banks

(In crore Taka)

Month	Disbursement		Recovery		Outstanding (at the end of Month)	
	FY21	FY22	FY21	FY22	FY21	FY22
July	1508.73	942.11	2278.90	1687.71	44835.57	45195.81
August	1947.45	1732.67	1732.74	1681.71	45045.82	45260.89
September	1228.13	2535.72	2265.99	2216.69	44041.91	44041.91
October	1945.54	2694.62	2179.63	2011.22	43913.45	46353.79
November	2306.04	2868.43	2269.08	2741.69	43971.93	46523.25
December	3142.09	3723.49	3364.73	3254.78	44089.09	47659.51
January	2070.74	2558.56	1965.17	1870.83	44321.71	48355.34
February	2032.01		1436.12		45053.28	
March	2332.49		2282.43		45348.47	
April	1859.43		1661.65		45600.85	
May	1597.65		2000.54		45237.50	
June	3540.96		3686.82		45939.80	
Total	25511.35	17055.	27123.90	15464.63		

Source: Agriculture Credit Department, Bangladesh Bank.