

29th November, 2006

**STATE BANK INVITES FEEDBACK ON DRAFT
GUIDELINES FOR FISHERIES FINANCING**

The State Bank of Pakistan has formulated Draft Guidelines for fisheries financing. These guidelines are aimed at increasing the flow of credit to fisheries sector that promises rich returns to the fishermen, banks and the economy as a whole; ensuring enhanced and sustained access of affordable financial services to fisheries sector, attracting investment in infrastructure and fish processing units, thereby substantially increasing fish catch both from marine as well as from fresh waters and also by encouraging pond fish production.

It may be pointed out that fishery is an important sub-sector of agriculture. It has great potential and can play a significant role in the national economy by contributing towards food security of the country and reducing pressure on demand for mutton, beef and poultry.

The draft guidelines have been sent to the key stakeholders including Pakistan Banks Association, Banks, Chambers of Agriculture, Fisheries representatives, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MINFAL) and Provincial Agricultural, Livestock & Fisheries Departments for comments and feed back by 10th December, 2006.

A copy of the guidelines has also been placed on SBP website www.sbp.org.pk for comments and feedback of the general public and all concerned. The comments may be mailed to **Director, Agricultural Credit Department, State Bank of Pakistan, I.I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi** or sent electronically at kamran.akram@sbp.org.pk latest by 10th December, 2006.

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