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**PRESS RELEASE**

**NBP LEADS IN AGRI FINANCING**

Karachi May 18: National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) is leading in agriculture financing among other banks and financial institutions in the country by lending Rs 33.013 billion among nearly 176,372 farmers between July 2011 to March 2012, against a target of Rs 32.400 billion by SBP for nine months.

According to NBP here Thursday, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has fixed an indicative lending target of Rs 280 billion for the financial year 2011-12, out of this NBP's Share is highest after ZTBL.

As per SBP report, NBP's total outstanding during one year has exceeded by Rs 9.763 billion, rising from Rs27.670 billion in March 2011 to Rs 37.433 billion in March 2012. NBP outstanding is higher by Rs 9.763 billion as compared with the total exceeded amount of outstanding by all five other banks including ZTBL which stood at Rs 2.283 billion in March 2012. This becomes possible due to dynamic leadership of President-Qamar Hussain, Group Chief Dr. Asif Brohi. Out of our total 1,277 domestic branches, 875 are involved in catering the needs of farmers. National Bank of Pakistan is at the top of 'five' commercial banks of Pakistan, as it offers complete range of commercial banking services along with agriculture services to farmers under one umbrella. NBP has disbursed Rs 42.4 billion in agriculture credit financing among nearly 252,000 farmers during July 2010-June 2011, against a target of Rs 41 billion. The percentage of non-performing loans of NBP was about 5 percent as on December 31, 2011, compared to 15 percent average NPL's of commercial banks in agricultural.

The other distinguishing feature of NBP is the competitive mark up rate, which is lower than the rate being charged by other commercial banks. The loans disbursed can be divided into two categories, production and development loans. Under the first category loans are disbursed mainly for the procurement of seeds, fertilizers & pesticides etc. and the second category is for the purchase of tractors, farm machinery & implements and construction of modern storage, cattle farms, poultry farms facilities etc. NBP takes pride in being a key partner in government's program of achieving food security and poverty alleviation.

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