

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE , DIRECTORATE
OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FARMERS' WELFARE,
VIKAS BHAVAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

(Present : P.S.Radhamony)

Sub: Annual Plan 2018-19 – Scheme on Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery including Regional Farm Facilitation Centres- Continuous Administrative Sanction accorded – orders issued- reg:

**Read: 1) G.O.(Rt) No.818/2017/AGRI dt.24/08/2017
2) G.O.(Rt) No.957/2017/Agri dt. 06/10/2017
3) Annual Plan 2018-19**

Order No. TP (2) 7465/2018

Dated: 28.04.2018

Government of Kerala, vide order read 1st and 2nd above accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme, “Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery including Regional Farm Facilitation Centres” during the year 2017-18 for an amount of Rs.3200.00 lakhs; Rs.2035.00 lakhs under head of account 2401-00-113-83 (P) and Rs. 1165.00 lakhs under head of account 4401-00-113-98 (P), with the following objectives..

Objectives

- To extent the service of agro service centres to more blocks and also strengthen the functioning of existing agroservice centres and thereby solve the labour scarcity problem faced by agriculture sector of the State.
- To co-ordinate the activities of agroservice centres at State level by constituting an apex body.
- To set up permanent facilities for the prompt repair and maintenance of machineries of agroservice centres, so as to enable smooth and timely conduct of agricultural operations without interruptions.
- To bring all bonafide farmers under the coverage of farmers registration programme.
- To strengthen the activities of Karshika Karmasenas.
- To modernise the infrastructure facilities of offices of the Department for effective service delivery.
- To replace the condemned vehicles of the Department by purchasing new ones for effective monitoring of implementation of schemes in the field.
- To effectively link the agroservice centres with the extension mechanism of the State for effective service delivery.
- To deliver agriculture related services at the door step of the farmer.

As per the Annual Plan 2018-19, the scheme is proposed to be continued during the current financial year with a budget allocation of Rs.3167.00 lakhs;

(Rs.2327.00 lakhs under head of account 2401-00-113-83 (P) and Rs. 840.00 lakhs under head of account 4401-00-113-98 (P), as shown below.

Sl. No	Components	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)	
		2401-00-113-83	4401-00-113-98
1	Establishment of new agro service centres		640.00
2	Computers to agroservice centres, krishibhavans and other offices	160.00	
3	Operational support (wages to mobile clinics)	190.00	
4	Support to farmer registration and e-payment system	220.00	
5	Infrastructure support for block ADA and krishibhavans and plant health clinics		200.00
6	Support to karshika karmasena	200.00	
7	Soil testing Labs in selected agroservice centres	50.00	
8	Operational support to vehicles at krishibhavans	50.00	
9	Strengthening existing agroservice centres		
	i. Purchase of need based machines at local level	275.00	
	ii. Training, biopharmacy, three wheelers, nurseries, soil testing facilitation, operational support	200.00	
10	Group insurance scheme for farmers and members of karshika karmasena and agroservice centres	100.00	
11	Honararium to data entry operators of NeGP	407.00	
12	Functional expenses of Apex Body for co-ordination of agro service centres and software development for monitoring and capacity building including skill development of agro service centres and karshika karma sena, including agro machinery service centre and pooling of machineries and equipments	425.00	
13	Establishment of virtual class room (new)	50.00	
	Total	2327.00	840.00

Out of this, components worth **Rs. 2421.705** lakhs will be continued during 2018-19 abiding by the norms and conditions of the Government Orders read 1st and 2nd above. An abstract of the programme is furnished below.

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	
		2401-00-113-83	4401-00-113-98
1	Establishment of new Agro Service Centres		640.00
2	Computers to Agro Service Centres, Krishi Bhavans and Other Offices	160.00 ✓	
3	Operational Support (wages to mobile clinics)	190.00	
4	Support to Farmers' Registration and e-payment system	125.00 ✓	
5	Infrastructure Support to Block ADA and Krishi Bhavans for Modernisation and Plant Clinics		200.00
6	Support to Karshika Karma Sena	100.00	
7	Soil Testing Labs in selected Agro Service Centres	50.00	
8	Operational Support to Vehicles at Krishi Bhavans	50.00	
9	Strengthening existing Agro Service Centres		
a)	Purchase of need based machineries at local level	275.00	
b)	Training, insurance, biopharmacy, three wheelers, nurseries, soil testing facilitation, operational support	200.00	
10	Honorarium to Data Entry Operators of NeGP-A	407.00 ✓	
11	Establishment of Virtual Class room.	24.705 ✓	
	Total	1581.705	840.00

Details of continuing components is furnished below.

1) Establishment of New Agroservice Centres (Rs.640.00 lakhs)

In order to fill the lacunae created in agriculture sector by the shortage of skilled and unskilled labourers and high wage rates through mechanisation and prompt service delivery, 64 agro service centres were established at block level during the 12th Plan period. In addition to the above, 15 new agroservices centres were established during 2017-18.

The agro service centres provide the necessary man and machinery for various agricultural operations at the right time and also support transfer of technology and service delivery. They also facilitate integration of services like mechanization,

ATMA based extension, cultivation of fallow lands, supply of inputs including organic inputs by setting up nurseries & biopharmacies, plant protection services, soil testing support and other technology based services. The block level farmers service centres under the Co-operation Dept. may be linked with the agro service centres for effective input delivery. The LSGs concerned will provide pace for machine yard and office space for functioning of Agroservice centres and their other initiatives such as nurseries, biopharmacy, soil testing lab etc. The agroservice centres will be registered and will be managed by a Management Committee and function in a self sustaining manner providing prompt and time bound services to the farming community.

Agro service centres facilitate integration of services like mechanisation, ATMA based extension, credit support, weather advisory services, soil testing support and other technology based services. In future, Agroservice Centres are expected to provide full fledged service to the farmers at a single point, meeting their requirements including timely labour, agricultural inputs, farms related information like credit, marketing etc.

An amount of Rs.32.00 lakhs will be provided for establishing one Agroservice Centre, which will be utilised as follows.

Sl No	Particulars	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
1	Machinery	22.00
2	Setting up of office	2.00
3	Maintenance fund	3.00
4	Operational expenses	1.90
5	Training to members	3.10
	Total	32.00

During 2018-19 it is proposed to establish 20 new block level Agro Service Centres utilising a provision of **Rs.640.00 lakhs**.

2) Computers to Agro Service Centres, Krishi Bhavans and Other Offices (Rs.160.00 lakhs)

For effective service delivery and use of most modern tools of e-extension of agricultural technologies a strong backbone of computer network is indispensable in all offices of agriculture department. In the era of digital knowledge, digital and mobile service delivery and global village farmers, scientists, agricultural entrepreneurs, educationalists, teachers, students, policy makers, and stakeholders must have access to agricultural knowledge at their finger tips so as to enhance productivity and profitability of farming and quick dissemination of most modern agricultural technologies in a highly competitive world order. For the implementation of modern online office management, tools like e-Office, e-treasury, BIMS & BAMS, farmer registration, e-payment, online claim processing, online portals for service delivery

like ASHA, online transparent right to service and right to information are available for effective office automation for paperless office and effective extension and multimodal delivery of services. the contribution of information and communication technology (ICT) to national development including agriculture has been steadily increasing.

e-Agriculture and e-Extension are emerging field focusing on the enhancement of agricultural and rural development through improved information and communication processes. All stakeholders of agriculture industry need information and knowledge about these phases to manage them efficiently.

Unfortunately in Kerala, many constraints block the development of e-agriculture and e-extension. These include lack of sustainable ICT infrastructure, absence of appropriate skills among potential users of ICTs (farmers, rural communities, extension staff and researchers), lack of appropriate content, and lack of access to ICT facilities. There is need to set up a robust IT infrastructure to help and address the issues of e-agriculture and e-extension and facilitate timely field level service to the farming community.

Objectives

- To provide computers and accessories to various offices of Agriculture Department to effectively practice e-extension and modern office management. Various portals like www.krishi.info, www.farmer.gov.in, www.celkau.in, www.farmextensionmanager.com etc are to be used for e-extension services and <http://fms.kerala.gov.in>, <http://asha.kerala.gov.in>, www.ebt.kerala.gov.in etc are to be used for service delivery related to scheme claim processing, agro service centres, hiring centres and e-payment of subsidies. Use of e- office, e- treasury, BIMS & BAMS, e-payment etc are essential for office automation ,online receipts, payments, fund allotment etc. Computers and accessories are essential for successful operation of these portals and effective service delivery to farmers.
- To provide for local networking and internet connections from BSNL for providing connectivity with a internet speed of 2 mbps and above and unlimited connection with faster connectivity up to 8 GB per month and wifi modems wherever necessary, for mobile governance and multimodal service delivery components.
- Bring promising Agroservice Centres also in the functional network.

Programme

The present programme is to give computers and connectivity to offices of agriculture development and farmer's welfare department and promising block level agroservice centres. desktop/laptop computer with processor core i3 or above specification with 3 year onsite warranty to be provided to different offices for e-extension services, online scheme administration and subsidy payment directly to farmer's bank account, electronic office management using e-office, e-treasury, BIMS & BAMS, online service delivery platforms like ASHA, krishi.info etc. BSNL connectivity with internet speed of 2 mbps and above and unlimited connection with

faster connectivity upto 8 GB per month and wifi modems wherever necessary for mobile governance and multimodal service delivery using broad band, Wimax/WLL or special leased line or fibre optic cable in case of remote locations like Vattavada in Idukki district where other options are not technically feasible. In case of offices where more computers are available networking of systems for optimum performance and sharing connectivity. Replacing more than 5 year old non working systems in many of the offices can be done for optimum use of these software for better service delivery to farmers. Internet Plan will be selected at directorate level and communicated to districts for making payment through district level nodal officer of BSNL. Systems will also be provided to promising agroservice centres to make them a part of the functional network in service delivery system.

The details of expenses required for connectivity is given below.

Sl No	Items	Amount (Rs lakhs)
1	Computer , accessories and networking devices. core –i3 or above desk top/laptop, ups, printer, network switch, cabling/wiring for department offices and promising agroservice centres	23.00
2	Connectivity to offices under Department of Agriculture Development and Farmer's Welfare, including promising agroservice centres. [Special Plan BBG Combo ULD 1199 package for heavy use offices/and BBG Combo ULD 945 Plan for ordinary user offices and Wimax/WLL /Leased Line in exceptional cases as per BSNL rates existing from time to time.]	137.00
	Total	160.00

An amount of **Rs.160.00 lakhs** is earmarked for this purpose.

3) Operational Support (wages to mobile agro clinics) (Rs.190.00 lakhs)

Seventy five (75) numbers of mobile agroclinics (in bolero jeeps) were established in the State by engaging drivers-cum-attendants on contract basis during the 12th Five Year Plan period. An amount of **Rs.190.00 lakhs** is earmarked for paying the remuneration of driver-cum-attendants @ **Rs18000/-** per month.

4) Support to Farmers' Registration and e- Payment System (Rs.125.00 lakhs)

As per G.O.(Ms) No.152/2012/AD dated 19-06-2012 Government of Kerala accorded sanction for the creation of an Online Database of Farmers and effect all subsidy payments to the bank accounts of beneficiaries. Based on this National Informatics Centre developed an online database platform for Agriculture Department - <http://kisan.gov.in>., for the following purposes.

- a) Enrolling new farmers in Farmer Database (Rs.10.00 lakhs)

The particulars of 18 lakhs bonafide farmers of Kerala have been registered in the online database. As per order G.O,(Rt)No.1546/15/AD, dated:15.09.2015, Government of Kerala accorded sanction for continuously adding new farmers to the farmer database and pilot testing of the claim processing software.

To ensure timely data entry of approximately **1 lakh** new farmers, ie., farmers who have not registered in the farmers database, an amount of **Rs.10.00 lakhs** is earmarked @ Rs.10/- per application, inclusive of service tax.

- b) Providing digital signature to officers in charge of e-payment and e-procurement. (Rs.1.48 lakhs)

Digital signature and encrypted e-mails are to be provided to Assistant Directors of Agriculture (ADAs) and other officers engaged in e-payment, e-procurement and other statutory functions which require use of digital signature from agencies enlisted by Kerala State IT Mission. All ADAs and Officers in charge of e-payment, e-procurement and other statutory official obligations which require Digital Signature etc can procure new digital signature or renew existing DSC before the end of validity period using this fund. An amount of **Rs. 1.48 lakhs** is earmarked for this component @ **Rs. 800/-** per Class III digital signature.

- c) Training on farmer data base, e-payment and other software clusters.(Rs.14.80 lakhs)

Capacity building programmes in the use of e-payment, e-procurement, farmer registration, integrated agricultural solutions, software clusters and other softwares are to be conducted for department officials as well as other stakeholders. An amount of Rs.14.80 lakhs is required for this purpose, including the amount for software customization workshops and training materials, as detailed below.

Sl No	Training	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
1.	District level trainings for farmer registration , e-payment etc for department officials and other stakeholders @ Rs 30,000/- per district for 14 districts	4.20
2.	Follow up trainings at block level @ Rs.5,000/- per block for 152 blocks	7.60
3.	Master trainers' trainings /bankers training, bankers software customisation workshops, e-procurement trainings, training and focus group workshops on integrated agriculture solution related software clusters. Need based problem solving and handholding focus group workshops -food and refreshment charges @ Rs 2000 per focus group and honorarium @ Rs. 750/- per day for experts from NIC and other agencies.	2.00
3.	Training materials	1.00
	Total	14.80

d) SMS support to e-payment, ASHA software etc (Rs.5.00 lakhs)

The EBT software for effecting e-payment, farmer registration, ASHA etc have the provision to send sms messages to the beneficiaries. This has been made possible by integrating e-payment /software platform with the mobile platform of Government of Kerala. Information on successful as well as failed transactions can be intimated to beneficiaries through sms along with scheme information. This facility will be given to farmers free of cost. SMS support and integration with farmer registration are also to be completed. An amount of **Rs.5.00 lakhs** is set apart to meet the sms charges payable to M/s KELTRON, which is the official supplier of Kerala Government sms.

e) Outsourcing work for online scheme application support for farmers, online farmer registration data correction, e-payment, data digitization, updation of state and central government portals etc (Rs.63.84 lakhs)

Together with the implementation of online scheme application and claim processing module scheme application is to be accepted online. This highly simplified application module requires entering aadhar/farmer registration no., scheme code, survey no, area of cultivation, no of plants and accepting scheme conditions and submitting online form. For the success of the software, support is to be provided to Krishi Bhavan to enable online application filling which is a mandatory requirement.

Outsourcing data entry work for streamlining online scheme application support for online farmer registration data correction, e-payment, data digitization and updation of state and central government portals etc are highly essential. An amount of **Rs. 63.84 lakhs** is earmarked for meeting the cost of mandays for the above work for 152 blocks @ Rs 350 per day for 10 days per month for 12 months.

f) Maintenance / replacement of old hard wares/ purchase of new hardware in various offices of agriculture department (Rs.29.00 lakhs)

An amount of **Rs.29.00 lakhs** will be utilised for the maintenance / replacement of hardwares which are older than 5 years and the purchase of new hard wares in a need based manner. This is highly essential for optimum use of IT infrastructure for extension and delivery of e-services. Hardware should be procured by following DGS & D rates or other standard procedure applicable for Government purchases.

g) Other contingencies and unforeseen expenses (Rs.0.88 lakh)

An amount of **Rs. 0.88 lakh** is earmarked for meeting the contingencies and unforeseen expenses related to e-payment, farmer registration etc.

An abstract of activities envisaged under the component is furnished below

Sl. No	Items	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
a	Enrolling new farmers in farmer database	10.00
b	Providing digital signature to officers in charge of e-payment and e-procurement.	1.48

c	Training on farmer data base, e-payment and other software clusters.	14.80
d	SMS support to e-payment, ASHA software etc	5.00
e	Outsourcing work for online scheme application support for farmers, online farmer registration data correction , e-payment , data digitization and updation of state and central government portals etc	63.84
f	Maintenance / replacement of old hard wares/ purchase of new hardware in various offices of agriculture department	29.00
g	Other contingencies and unforeseen expenses	0.88
	Total	125.00

An amount of **Rs.125.00 lakhs** is earmarked for this purpose.

5) Infrastructure Support to Block ADA, District Level Offices and Krishi Bhavans for Modernisation and Plant Clinics (Rs.200.00 lakhs)

The provision is meant for providing infrastructural facilities for the proper functioning of various offices under the Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare Department, including block level ADA offices, krishi bhavans and plant health clinics for improving efficiency in service delivery. During the current year, an amount of **Rs.200.00 lakhs** is earmarked for this purpose.

The provision of the current year will be utilised for infrastructural development works of various offices of the department, in a need based manner and on a priority basis

6) Support to Karshika Karmasenas (Rs.100.00 lakhs)

In Agriculture, among the four factors of production, labour plays a major role. In Kerala one of the major reasons for the farmers to refrain from agriculture is higher wages of labourers and poor labour efficiency. In order to solve this problem, 200 thozhilsenas named 'Karshika Karmasenas' were constituted in 200 gramapanchayats during 2014-15.

In order to strengthen the activities of Karshika Karmasenas (KKS) already equipped with agricultural machinery and technical skill, the performance of each karmasena will be evaluated and selected KKS will be provided additional support in a need based manner on a project mode. An amount of **Rs.100.00 lakhs** will be utilised for this purpose.

Objectives

- To improve the infrastructure facilities of karshika karmasenas
- To improve the quality of services provided by the karmasenas
- To give additional support to performing KKS for their innovative activities
- To help in increasing the quantity of services offered by the KKS
- To improve the productivity of different crops in the panchayat thereby the income of farmers
- To improve the income of members of KKS

Cafeteria of activities

Enhancement of infrastructure facilities such as facilities for storage of machinery and implements, marketing facilities, ecosshop, bio pharmacy, production of organic manures and organic pesticides, biofertilisers etc. are proposed under the activities for getting assistance.

At district level, projects submitted by the Agricultural Officers through the concerned Assistant Directors should be evaluated. For this, a district level committee shall be constituted and criteria to evaluate the programme shall be fixed strictly conforming to Government direction in this regard.

The district level evaluation committee should consist of the Principal Agricultural Officer, Project Director ATMA, concerned Deputy Director, Assistant Executive Engineer and all Assistant Directors of the district.

Selection criteria of eligible KKS should be as follows.

- Activities of the KKS for the last year-Changes in the area, production, productivity of important crops of the panchayat especially paddy, organic vegetable production, fallow land cultivation etc.
- Proposal for innovative activities like eco shop, bio pharmacy, marketing of agricultural products produced by farmers of the panchayat etc. Proposal for purchase of implements and machinery not allowed. Instead the machinery already purchased under different schemes shall be properly utilised.
- Number of mandays generated for labourers of KKS
- Income, expenditure and savings of KKS
- Maintenance of registers and review of activities by office bearers
- Unity, discipline and harmony among KKS members
- Cooperation from panchayath
- Leadership quality of the office bearers
- Response of farmers towards the activities of KKS
- Whether gender concerns are taken care of
- Number of active working group members
- Area of operation /no. of panchayats covered

Sl No	Activities proposed for getting assistance	No. of KKS proposed to be benefitted	Amount (Rs in lakhs)	
			Maximum eligible assistance/ KKS	Total amount
1	Enhancement of infrastructure facilities such as facilities for storage of machineries and implements & Innovative activities	10	10.00	100.00
	Total	10		100.00

District level evaluation committee should select the eligible KKS for providing assistance based on a performance analysis of all KKS in the district based on the

above criteria and submitted projects. An amount of **Rs.100.00 lakhs** will be allotted to the districts based on the approved projects and request submitted by concerned Principal Agricultural Officer. All rules, formalities and procedures shall be strictly followed for the implementation of the scheme. The norms of financial propriety shall be followed. The fund release will be based on actual requirement and fund released should not be parked in banks. Store purchase rules shall be strictly adhered to for all kinds of purchases. Tender/e tender and other stipulated formalities shall be followed wherever necessary. Post creation and purchase of vehicles are not admissible under the scheme.

The Director of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare Department, Additional Director of Agriculture (Extension) at State level and Deputy PD ATMA at district level shall monitor the implementation of the scheme and ensure that the implementation is as per the existing procedures, rules and regulations. The scheme will be implemented by Deputy Director of Agriculture (ATMA) at district level, Assistant Director of Agriculture at block level and Agricultural Officer at panchayat level. Principal Agricultural Officer is authorised to give sanction for projects upto Rs.10.00 lakhs. Purchase shall be effected strictly abiding by the standard procedure applicable for Government purchases.

(Balance provision of Rs.100.00 lakhs under the component will be utilised to establish new karshika karmasenas, after obtaining administrative sanction from Government.)

7) Soil Testing Laboratories in Selected Agro Service Centres (Rs.50.00 lakhs)

Application of plant nutrients based on soil analysis is key factor influencing crop production. There exists a wide gap between the number of samples analysed through department laboratories and the actual demand in the field. To reduce this gap to the maximum extent, five stationary soil testing labs were established attached to agroservice centres functioning under the Department of Agriculture in Parassala, Koothuparamba, Kothamangalam, Pazhayannur and Neeleswaram blocks, so as to bring the soil testing service to the doorstep of the farmer. It is proposed to establish new soil testing labs attached to 2 selected agroservice centres having building and water facilities during 2018-19. Moreover, it is also proposed to provide honorarium to analysts and laboratory assistants engaged in the 5 soil testing labs already established in the state, which are yet to attain self-sustainability.

Objectives

- To establish 2 soil testing labs attached to 2 well performing agroservice centres.
- To popularise soil testing practice among farmers.
- To ensure balanced use of fertilizers
- To encourage scientific agricultural practice
- To act as a tool for sustainable agriculture
- To reduce cost of cultivation and improve farmers' profit.
- To strengthen existing agroservice centres by improving their facilities.

Programme

Two agroservice centres having pucca building facilities (1000 sq. feet) will be selected for establishment of soil testing laboratories. It should have proper facilities for installation of equipments, electricity and water connection, storage space for samples etc. Major and micro nutrients, pH, TSS and electrical conductivity of soil samples will be tested. It is proposed to analyse 5000 samples per year/lab.

The basic requirement for setting up new soil testing lab are furnished below.

a) Equipments

1. Colorimeter
2. Conductivity meter
3. pH meter
4. Shaking apparatus
5. Electronic Balance
6. Analytical Balance/Top loading balance
7. Drying oven
8. Computer system with appropriate software
9. Table top centrifuge
10. Water still
11. Flame Photometer
12. Hotplate
13. Glasswares/polywares like Pipette, Burettes, conical flask, measuring cylinders etc. and their racks.
14. Refrigerator.
15. Portable genset of 7.5 KVA (silent type) furniture like table, desk, almirah, shelves etc. Other items like LPG gas cylinder, metal trolley, bunsen burner etc.

The approximate cost of equipments for a soil testing laboratory works out to **Rs.5.55 lakhs.**

b) Reagents required for analyzing 5000 samples

Sl. No.	Chemical	Requirement for 5000 samples	Approximate Price (Rs.)
1	Conc. Sulphuric acid	62.5 ltr	11375
2	Conc. Hydrochloric acid LR	7.5 ltr	2310
3	Conc. Hydrochloric acid AR	25 ltr	7700
4	Ammonium fluoride	250 g	320
5	Ammonium molybdate	350 g	5705
6	Potassium dichromate	3000 g	1565
7	Boric acid	1000 g	1000
8	Ammonium acetate	12.5 kg	7500
9	Ascorbic acid	125 g	965

10	Antimony potassium tartarate	5 g	20
11	Filter paper Whatmann No. 1	500 sheets	5000
12	Buffer tablets pH 4	50 tabs	770
13	Buffer tablet pH 7 (capsule)	50 tabs	770
	Total cost of reagents		45000

Thus the total cost of equipments and reagents comes to approximately **Rs.6.00 lakhs.**

c) Electricity and water

Regular supply of electricity and water is to be ensured for smooth running of the lab. Many of the equipments used now are running on electricity. So also distilled water is required for which 'water still' is used which utilizes electricity for distilling water received from outside source. An amount of **Rs.1.00 lakh** may be set apart for meeting the cost of electricity and ensuring quality water supply for the soil testing lab.

d) Building

It may be required to refurbish the existing building for creating facilities for the setting up of the soil testing laboratory. An amount of **Rs.1.00 lakh** per lab is set apart for this purpose.

Total cost of establishing a soil testing laboratory comes to **Rs.8.00 lakhs.**

Technical personnel and Training

A technical person having B.Sc.(Ag.)/B.Sc.(Chem.) degree may be posted as '**Analyst**' for carrying out the analytical work in each soil testing lab. He/she must be given training in the Department Soil Testing Lab of the respective district in the various aspects of soil testing starting from drawing soil samples to analysis and fertilizer recommendation. Monthly honorarium of Rs.15000/- may be paid to such personnel.

Two persons with minimum Higher Secondary qualification in Science or VHSC in Agriculture may also be posted as **lab assistants** in each lab to assist the analyst in laboratory activities. They may also be given necessary technical training in the laboratories of the department. Remuneration @ Rs.5000/-per month shall be paid to each of them.

Operationalisation and activities

The agro service centres are now functioning under a 'management committee' constituted at the block level. The functioning of soil testing labs will automatically come under their supervision and control. The krishi bhavans coming under the block where these labs are established shall ensure that necessary samples for analysis reach

these labs. Farmers of adjacent blocks can also be catered to, if required. Krishi bhavans and ADA offices shall give necessary publicity and awareness on soil testing so that farmers avail themselves of this facility. Mobile agro clinics of each block can be used for collection of samples from Krishi Bhavans during scheduled visits and for the delivery of test results in their future visits. Activities of these soil testing laboratories will be reviewed every month at ADA level and necessary guidance given to make up the shortfalls noticed, if any.

Soil health cards will be issued to the farmers availing facility of these labs. Such soil health cards will be issued to farmers based on the existing soil-based plant nutrient management information system. The format available in the portal www.keralasoilfertility.net shall be made use of for this purpose.

A nominal charge may be collected for testing soil samples which may be fixed by the management committee of the agro service centre on a no profit no loss basis.

The abstract of the programme is furnished below.

(Rs. in lakhs)					
Sl. No	Item	Amount required for setting one lab	Amount required for setting 2 new labs	Amount required for maintenance of 5 existing labs	Total
1	Purchase of equipments, reagents furniture etc. for soil testing labs	6.00	12.00	13.00	25.00
2	Electrification & water connection	1.00	2.00		2.00
3	Refurbishing of existing building	1.00	2.00		2.00
4	Honorarium to one analyst and 2 lab assistants @Rs.15000/- per month and Rs.5000/- per month respectively	3.00	6.00	15.00	21.00
	Grand Total	11.00	22.00	28.00	50.00

For implementing this component, eligible agroservice centres are to be identified by the Principal Agricultural Officer concerned and suitable proposals shall be submitted for sanction of a State level Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Director of Agriculture (Extension) with Joint Director of Agriculture (AR&T) and Assistant Director of Agriculture concerned at HQ as members. An amount of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

8) Operational Support to Vehicles at Krishi Bhavans (Rs.50.00 lakhs)

As per G.O (Rt) No.1276/12/AD dt:16.06.2012, two wheelers were provided to 550 selected krishi bhavans of the State @ one two wheeler per Krishi Bhavan, for ensuring mobility to field level functionaries for executing their extension activities effectively. Funds were also sanctioned for providing operational support to these vehicles as fuel allowance @ Rs.500/- per month. Moreover 2 wheelers were provided to 180 more selected krishi bhavans in 2015-16 as per G.O.(Rt) No.83/2016/AD dated: 29.01.2016. During 2018-19, an amount of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** is earmarked for providing operational support to the above vehicles in krishi bhavans, by providing fuel allowance @ Rs.500/- per month, and also for undertaking their repair and maintenance in a need based manner.

9) Strengthening of existing agro service centres (Rs.500.00 lakhs)

Agroservice centres, established from the 12th Five Year Plan period have been catering to the needs of the farmer to a great extent. At present 79 such centres are functioning in Kerala under the Department of Agriculture. Initially, they have been supplied with different kinds of agricultural machinery and provided with trained manpower. These centres are working under the guidance of the management committee and high power committee constituted with department officials and people's representatives. Many of these single-window service delivery centres have further been strengthened during successive years for achieving the targeted goals of mechanization, ATMA-based extension, ensuring availability of inputs, credit support, weather-based services, soil testing facilitation and other technical services, by providing additional financial support. It is proposed to strengthen other existing agroservice centres also in a similar way during the current financial year so as to equip them for effective service delivery.

Objectives

- To make available all kinds of machinery as per local requirement to farmers.
- To make available all kinds of inputs, soil testing facilitation, weather-related information to farmers.
- To upgrade agro service centres as a centres of training and learning to farmers.
- To ensure social security of members of agroservice centres.
- To provide transport facility for machineries.
- To broaden the service area of agroservice centres.

Programme

a) Purchase of need-based machines at the local level. (Rs.275.00 lakhs)

A set of machinery needed for agricultural operations have been supplied to agro service centres (ASC) in the initial year. But these are only in limited numbers, which will not meet the requirements once these centres start catering to a wider section of farming community. Hence equipments further needed for each block need to be assessed and supplied. Assistance upto a maximum amount of Rs. 20 lakhs will

be provided to the agro service centres for purchase of machinery. Only machines required for agricultural activities will be purchased under this component. Blocks/area having more area of paddy cultivation will be given preference in allotting the funds for purchase of machineries like combine harvesters, transplanters, straw balers etc. The machines can be purchased from KAMCO, or from other institutions observing store purchase rules .

Also in large paddy tracts of Kuttanad and Palakkad and even in districts like Thiruvananthapuram having small area under paddy, harvesting is done using combine harvesters. These self-propelled machinery carry out harvesting, cleaning the grain, threshing and deposit the grains at a desired point. At present, these machines are brought from neighbouring districts like Tamil Nadu. These are also not sufficient during peak harvest seasons and the machine operators charge exorbitant hire charges based on demand. In order to avoid such ordeal to farmers, combine harvesters or other needed machineries may be supplied to agroservice centres based on requirement. It will not only benefit the farmers but also become a good source of income to the centre. The hire charge can be fixed as per existing rules by the high power committee concerned. An amount of **Rs.275.00 lakhs** is proposed the purchase of need based machineries for agroservice centres.

b) Training, biopharmacy, three wheelers, nurseries, soil testing facilitation, operational support etc (Rs.200.00lakhs)

i) Training

Manpower appointed at the existing agroservice centres require refresher training every year to equip them to handle the functioning of the centre smoothly. Topics like handling, repair and maintenance of machinery, fertilizer schedule for various crops, soil sampling, diagnosis and suggesting remedies for pest and disease problems, safe handling of plant-protection chemicals, plant propagation and nursery techniques, efficient service delivery to farmers etc. may be included. Such refresher trainings shall be conducted by ADAs at the block level. Suitable training programme for the secretary/ facilitator may also be arranged.

ii) Biopharmacy

Inputs, whether chemical or organic, is a crucial factor in agricultural production. Availability of good quality material, at the required time and with technical support regarding their usage, is lacking to some extent at present. The problem is more evident in the case of new-generation pesticides. If these concerns are taken care of at a single point through agroservice centres, it will be a great boon to the farming community and will go a long way in improving scientific farming activities. For achieving this, necessary certificate of registration ('Licence') may be issued to agroservice centres in favour of secretary/facilitator in their official capacity, for retail stocking and selling of fertilizers, organic manures and pesticides, especially organic and bio pesticides, provided they apply for the same following the standard procedures.

The stocking point shall be attached to the agroservice centre. The items to be stocked should be assessed based on local suitability and requirements, which may be done by the Management Committee. Preference should be given to organic products which will help in promoting Organic farming activities. An amount of Rs.1.00 lakh is proposed per agroservice centre for purchase of inputs, weighing balance, registers and other accessories.

iii) Purchase of Three Wheelers

Facility for transporting implements and machinery from Agro Service Centre to the farmers' field, from there to the next field and finally back to the Centre is an important factor in timely delivery of service to farmers. Vehicles have been provided to some of the existing centres at present. However, others are forced to hire vehicles which causes undue delay and also payment of hire charges at exorbitant rates. This causes reduced demand from farmers on one side and financial loss to the Centre on the other side. Heavy machinery such as power tiller, rotavator, trailer and long equipments like brush cutter need separate vehicle for transportation. Hence each agroservice centre needs a three wheeler / 4 wheeler capable of transporting heavy and bigger-sized equipments. A maximum amount of Rs.3.00 lakhs per agroservice centre may be provided for this purpose to those centres which have not received this support earlier.

iv) Establishing nurseries

Good quality planting materials holds foremost importance in crop production. Government agencies in the agricultural sector are unable to meet the farmers demand for this component at present. Hence private parties exploit this situation by supplying inferior quality materials, that too at higher prices. If supply of good quality planting materials as per local requirements can be ensured at the planting season by agroservice centres, it will help tremendously in improving agricultural production. Nursery may be started in a suitable location close to the agroservice centres. The selection of the area may be done by the management committee. The area, if needed, may be leased for a minimum period of 5 years. Plant propagation may be done only if the nursery area is owned by the department as otherwise raising of root stocks in leased land cannot be maintained. Otherwise the nursery may function as a stocking point of seeds and planting materials produced at the department farms and by KAU and other research stations which will be sold through this outlet. Selected members of the agroservice centres can be given separate training in plant propagation and nursery management techniques. The price will be fixed by the high power committee by including a margin of profit to the centre. This will help the farmers to meet their planting material requirements at the local level. Technical advice regarding sowing/planting and their upkeep can also be provided through such centres.

Under vegetable development programme, grow bags with seeds/seedlings is distributed to farmers at subsidized rates. These are supplied by government/private agencies at present. This work can be entrusted to agroservice centres as per the target

allotted to the krishi bhavans of the block area. The members can prepare such growbags and distribute them to the farmers as per price fixed by high power committee. This will be a good source of income to the centre. For purchase of planting materials and creating required facilities like irrigation, setting up of a green house etc. an amount of Rs.2.00 lakhs per agroservice centres will be provided.

v) Soil testing facilitation

Soil testing is gaining importance among farmers due to high cost of inputs, deficiency symptoms noticed in crops due to soil nutrient imbalance, priority given to organic cultivation methods etc. As of now, Department of Agriculture has one district soil testing lab (DSTL) in each district and nine mobile soil testing labs in the State. The samples collected at krishi bhavan level is brought to DSTL, analysed and report given to the party directly or through the concerned Krishi Bhavans. This procedure of sample collection and distribution of results can be done at agroservice centre level. Farmers of the nearby locality can bring samples to agroservice centres which will send them to lab on a weekly basis. Samples collected at the krishi bhavan level can also be pooled at the centre. Results can be sent to the lab which can be distributed to the concerned farmers. This will help in more interaction between farmers and the centre and will help in speedy analysis and issue of test results. Technical details like recommended fertilizer dosage in the result sheet can be explained directly to farmers. No expenditure is envisaged for this component.

vi) Operational support

Operational support will be given for the first year for the existing agroservice centres for hiring skilled labour or appointing staff to the centre, for meeting hiring charges etc. The payment for office secretary @ Rs.12000/- p.m., may be considered limited to the first year only to hand hold the unit to become self-sustaining to meet this payment component from their own income. Also the working group members (15 in no.) of newly established centres shall be paid a fixed monthly stipend of Rs.1000/- apart from the remuneration earned through business activities of the centre. This will avoid drop-outs among the members. The workers may also be paid a yearly uniform allowance of Rs.1600/- similar to those paid to mechanics and drivers of the Department. An amount of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** may be set apart for this purpose.

vii) Additional support to Model Agroservice Centres

The agroservice centres which perform their activities ideally by benefitting the farming community and create a model for others will be provided additional support for creating additional infrastructure including building, machinery and manpower based on their requirement. An amount of **Rs.25.00 lakhs** may be set apart for this purpose.

An abstract of the programme is furnished below.

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Purchase of need-based machinery at local level	275.00
2	Training, biopharmacy, three wheelers, nursery, soil testing facilitation, operational support, additional support etc.	200.00
	Total	475.00

An amount of **Rs.475.00 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

Suitable proposals for the above components shall be submitted from districts for sanction of a State level Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Director of Agriculture (Extension) with Joint Director of Agriculture (AR&T) and Assistant Director of Agriculture concerned at HQ as members. Performance appraisal of all existing agroservice centres and Karshika Karmasenas will be undertaken before providing assistance. Wherever possible, the services of agroservice centres will be linked to Karshika Karmasenas.

✓ 10) Honorarium to data entry operators under NeGP-A (Rs.407.00 lakhs)

The following components are to be supported with state project funding for continuity of operations and better service delivery to farmers under NeGP-A.

Data entry operators were engaged for data entry and data digitization under NeGP-A. The data entry and digitization of documents are essential for the successful launch of software related to various cluster of services, which have become e-services. Presently data entry and digitization works of farmers portal <http://farmer.gov.in>, sending sms through mkisan portal, supporting IT initiatives of state like farmer registration, e-payment, soil health card etc are undertaken by data entry operators. Implementation of 12 software clusters already developed under NeGP-A has to be done with the support of data entry operators.

One hundred and seventy (170) numbers of data entry operators are currently engaged under NeGP-A. They are being paid honorarium @ Rs19950/- per month. An amount of **Rs.407.00 lakhs** is required for this purpose.

Financial requirement for data entry operators for one year

Amount (Rs in lakhs)

Sl No	Components	No. of data entry operators	Rate	Total fund requirement
1	Honorarium to Data Entry Operators	170 no.s	Rs.19950/- per head / month	407.00
	Total			407.00

An amount of **Rs.407.00lakhs** is earmarked for this purpose.

11) Establishment of Virtual Classroom (Rs.24.705lakhs)

The project aims at creating modern, state of the art, hi-tech virtual class room through video conferencing technology connecting RATTTC's, FTC's with SAMETI and other training centres. This will enable the department to conduct workshops, conferences and trainings on video conferencing mode. This will enable human resource development in agriculture sector utilising the provisions of modern information and communication (ICT) technology by linking existing computer training labs of the department and IT mission district level video conferencing studios.

Objectives

- To establish virtual class room at RATTTC Kozha, RATTTC Malampuzha and FTC Kozhikode and connect them to facilities in SAMETI, Anayara and other reputed training centres at state, national and international level. This will enable Department to conduct workshops, conferences and trainings. This will enhance the quality of imparting new agricultural knowledge, skills and attitude of department officials and farmers of Kerala and result in wider reach and create a network of virtual class rooms.
- To create IT training infrastructure with computer labs containing 10 computers at RATTTC, Trivandrum, RATTTC Taliparamba and FTC Pandalam to impart IT and e-Governance knowledge and skills to department officials and master farmers.
- Human resource development in agriculture sector utilising the provisions of modern information and communication (ICT) technology.
- Reduce costs of training, travelling and save the time, money and energy of department, officials and farmers .
- To enable fibre optic network connectivity with special IP address with high speed of 100 Mbps for RATTTC's and FTC's.
- Providing computer training facility with 3 computers at 4 selected PAO offices which can be used as an IT and e-Governance training facility and as common facilitation centres for computer use for staff.

Components

- a) Virtual Class Room at RATTTC Kozha, RATTTC Malampuzha and TC Vengeri

(Amount - Rs. in lakhs)

Sl No	Equipments	Qty	Price/ Unit	Total
1	PTZ Camera - iCam-WHD 1080 12XPTZ Camera supports to 1080P Resolution with 10 x optical Zoom and 12x digital zoom, with Wide Angles Support 360 Degree rotation. Supports on USB connectivity with the Codec	3	1.62	4.86

2	LED Display 60" Full HD LED for side Audience, As 1920x1080 (16:9) resolution & 170°/160° (H/V) viewing angle, With HDMI & VGA Interface	3	1.53	4.59
3	Wall Mount Kit Wall Mount Kits for 60" LED	3	0.097	0.291
4	Audio High-Performance on table Boundary Layer high-quality microphone capsule of the best speech intelligibility.	3	2.03	6.09
5	Amplifier Existing Customer Amplifier can be used	0	0	0
6	Wall Mount Speaker Existing speakers will can be used	0	0	0
7	Cables & Connectors All kinds of Cables and connectors Like HDMI, Microphone cable, speaker cables, power cables, Connectors.. etc	3	0.105	0.315
8.	Installation and one year Connectivity Charges – FTTH	3	1.25	3.75
9.	Licence Fee -2 Nos and 5 Year AMC	4	1.00	4.00
10	Installation Charges, Board , Acoustics and Miscellaneous expenses Programming & Installation Charges.	3	0.61	1.83
	Total		8.235	24.705

Virtual Class rooms will be established at RATTC Kozha, RATTC Malampuzha and FTC Kozhikode and connected with SAMETI, Anayara and other reputed training centres in state, national and international level to create a network of classrooms thereby enhancing the quality of imparting training on new scientific cultivation practices to department officials and farmers of Kerala. An amount of **Rs.24.705 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

Financial Outlay

Abstract of the continuing programmes proposed to be implemented in 2018-19 is furnished below.

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	
		2401-00-113-83	4401-00-113-98
1	Establishment of new agroservice centres		640.00
2	Computers to agroservice centres, krishi bhavans and other offices	160.00	
3	Operational support (wages to mobile clinics)	190.00	

4	Support to farmers' registration and e- payment system	125.00	
5	Infrastructure support to block ADA and krishi bhavans for modernisation and plant clinics		200.00
6	Support to karshika karmasena	100.00	
7	Soil testing labs in selected agroservice centres	50.00	
8	Operational support to vehicles at krishi bhavans	50.00	
9	Strengthening existing agroservice centres		
a)	Purchase of need based machineries at local level	275.00	
b)	Training, insurance, biopharmacy, three wheelers, nurseries, soil testing facilitation, operational support	200.00	
10	Honorarium to data entry operators of NeGP-A	407.00	
11	Establishment of virtual class room.	24.705	
TOTAL		1581.705	840.00

During the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs.3167.00 lakhs for the implementation of the scheme “**Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery including Regional Farm Facilitation centres**”, out of which Rs.2327.00 lakhs is under head of account 2401-00-113-83 (P) and Rs. 840.00 lakhs under head of account 4401-00-113-98 (P).

In the circumstances mentioned above, continuous administrative sanction is hereby accorded and orders issued for implementation of the scheme “**Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery including Regional Farm Facilitation Centres**” during 2018-19, for an amount of **Rs.2421.705 lakhs (Rupees Twenty four crores twenty one lakhs seventy thousand and five hundred only)**, as per the above statement, debiting expenditure of **Rs.1581.705 lakhs** to head of account **2401-00-113-83 (P)** and **Rs. 840.00 lakhs** to head of account **4401-00-113-98 (P)**, from current years' budget provision. The scheme shall be implemented abiding by the terms and conditions stipulated in the Government Order read above.

For the balance amount of Rs.745.295 lakhs under the head of account 2401-00-113-83 (P), separate proposals seeking administrative sanction shall be submitted to Government for the following components.

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	
		2401-00-113-83	
1	Support to farmers' registration and e- payment system	95.00	
2	Support to karshika karmasena – Establishment of new karshika karmasena	100.00	

3	Establishment of virtual class room.	25.295
4	Group insurance scheme for farmers and members of karshika karmasena and Agro service centres	100.00
5	Functional expenses of Apex Body for co-ordination of agro service centres and software development for monitoring and capacity building including skill development of agro service centres and karshika karmasena, including agro machinery service centre and pooling of machineries and equipments	425
	Total	745.295

Since agriculture is a season bound activity, timely implementation of the scheme has to be ensured with a definite action plan and calender and this should be reflected in the monthly booking of expenditure from the first quarter onwards.

Monthly progress report should invariably contain component wise physical and financial targets and achievements, number of beneficiaries and the stage of implementation of each component.

Since Government is giving emphasis to women participation and gender budgeting, maximum efforts have to be made to include women beneficiaries in the scheme. The number of women beneficiaries and the amount utilised for such beneficiaries (component wise) should also be separately shown in the monthly progress report.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture,


Deputy Director of Agriculture (Plg.)
Directorate of Agriculture
Thiruvananthapuram

To
TV/ TG/IT sections of the Directorate for issue of detailed working instructions

Copy to

TA to Director of Agriculture, CA to All Additional Directors of Agriculture of the HQ, State Agricultural Engineer, Senior Finance Officer for information
IT section of the directorate for posting on the website