

TV (1) 18415/2019

Directorate of Agriculture Development
and farmers welfare Department
Thiruvananthapuram
Dated : 28 /05/ 2019

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2019-20 – Soil testing lab in selected Agro Service Centres under Scheme “Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery” 2019-20
Working instruction issued – Reg.

Ref:- 1 . G.O (Rt)No. 818/2017 /AGRI Dt. Thiruvananthapuram 24/8/2017
2 . Order No: TP(2) 12936/2019 Dt. 13/5/2019 of Director of Agriculture
Development and Farmers Welfare Department.

As per reference cited 2 continuous Administrative Sanction has been accorded for the scheme “Agro Service Centres and Service Delivery” with a provision of total **Rs. 1099. 52902 lakhs under the H/A 2401-00-113-83 and Rs. 24.88098 under the H/A 4401-00-113-98** plan; for the year 2019-20 . One of the components of this scheme is **Soil Testing Labs** attached to Agroservice centres for which an amount of **Rs. 10.00 lakhs** is set apart under HA/c 2401-00-113-83.

Agro service Centres (ASC) are established at block level to facilitate integration of services like mechanization, ATMA based extension, credit support, weather advisory services, soil testing support and technology based services. 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, six stationary soil testing labs were established attached to Agroservice centres functioning under the Department of Agriculture in Parassala, Koothuparamba, Kothamangalam, Pazhayannur , Iringalakkuda , Neeleswaram and Kunnummel blocks, so as to bring the soil testing service to the doorstep of the farmer.

It is proposed to provide honorarium to analysts and laboratory assistants engaged in the 6 soil testing labs already established; as these centres are yet to attain self-sustainability.

Objectives

- 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

The amount sanctioned can be utilised for providing chemicals to the existing laboratories and for providing remuneration to the staff appointed in these laboratories.

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. **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 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.

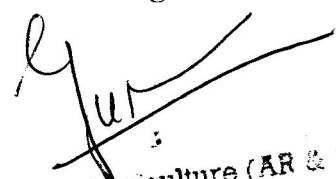
The abstract of the programme is furnished below.

Sl. No	Item	Amount required for maintenance of existing labs
1	Purchase of equipments, reagents etc for soil testing labs	
2	Electrification & Water connection @ 1 lakh	
3	Honararium to one analyst and 2 lab assistants @ 15000/- per month and 5000/- per month respectively @ 3 lakhs/lab	10
	Grand Total	10

ADAs of Parassala, Koothuparamba, Kothamangalam, Pazhayannur, Irinjalakkuda Neeleswaram and Kunnummel blocks will prepare a proposal of the requirement of funds for functioning of the existing soil testing labs in Agro Service Centres and submit through Project Director (ATMA) before 20.06.2019

An amount of Rs. 10.00 lakhs is set apart for this purpose under the H/A 2401-00-113-83 Plan from current year budget provision.

Sd/
Director of Agriculture



Joint Director of Agriculture (AR & T)
Director of Agriculture,
Kasimangalam

To

All Principal Agricultural Officers

Copy to:

Project Directors, ATMA

CA to the Director of Agriculture

CA to all Additional Director of Agriculture

CA to State Agricultural Engineer

CA to Joint Director of Agriculture (AR & T) at Headquarters/Senior Finance Officer

TP Section – for allotment of funds to district as per Annexure

Principal Information Officer, Farm Information Bureau – for giving wide publicity

Deputy Director of Agriculture, IT Cell – to publish in the website

TV/Fin Section/TG Section

Stock File/Spare