

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

**(Present Dr.K.Vasuki IAS)**

Sub: Annual Plan 2020-21 – **Scheme on Rice Development** – Continuous  
Administrative sanction accorded – orders issued- reg:

- Read: 1) G.O.(Rt) No.251/2019/AGRI dated.08.03.2019.  
(2) G.O.(Rt) No.251/2019/AGRI dated.08.03.2019.  
(3) G.O.(Rt) No.762//2019/AGRI dated.08.08.2019.  
(4) G.O.(Rt) No.942/2019/AGRI dated.14.10.2019.  
(5) G.O.(Rt) No.888/2019/AGRI dated.27.09.2019.  
(6) Order No. TP (2) 12920 /2019 Dated:01.07.2019.  
(7) Annual Plan 2020-21.  
(8) Circular No. S.S.1/132 (1)/2020/Fin dt. 30.3.2020.  
(9) Circular no.21/2020/Fin dt.08/4/2020.  
(10) G.O.(Rt) No.393/2020/Agri dt.22/4/2020.

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**Order No. ADFW/487/2020-TP2**

**Dated: 08.05.2020**

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Government of Kerala, have accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme 'Rice Development' during the year 2019-20 for an amount of Rs.7970.00 lakhs for components included in the Green Book vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited and for other new/modified components vide G.O cited 2 to 5 above. During 2019-20 Continuous Sanction was accorded for the ongoing components worth Rs.120.00 lakhs vide reference (6) cited.

During the financial year 2020-21, there is a budget provision of Rs.11824.00 lakh for the scheme 'Rice Development' under head of account 2401-00-102-90 (P). Out of this, an amount of Rs.262.01844 lakh was allotted for encashment of bills not e-submitted to treasury upto 31.3.2020 and can be submitted on or before 18/4/2020 as per circular cited (8) above and an amount of Rs. 3854.5913 lakh was allotted for encashment of 'Queue' bills & WAMS clearance bills of 2019-20 as per circular cited (9) above. Hence the balance available for issuing Administrative sanction during 2020-21 is only Rs.7707.39026 lakh as stipulated in the above mentioned circulars.

Components worth Rs.3484.00 lakh is continuing during 2020-21 also, the details of which are given below.

**1) Group Farming**

The component is being implemented to achieve a rice based farming system approach based on group farming concept and scientific package of cultivation suited to each agro climatic condition. It aims at enhancing production and productivity and simultaneously bringing down cost of cultivation. The group farming activities in each

padasekharam will be undertaken in each season in a co-ordinated manner as per an approved action plan prepared at Krishibhavan level.

**a) Sustainable development of Rice (Rs.2666.40 lakh)**

An amount of Rs.2666.40 lakh is set apart for input assistance under sustainable rice development for 48480 Ha @ Rs.5500/Ha. The support for input assistance will be in the form of quality seeds, inputs (based on AEU based recommendations from Krishi Bhavan), and certification and bio control agents only.

**(b) Operational support for Group farming activities of padashekhara samithies (Rs.300.00 lakh)**

An amount of **Rs. 300.00 Lakh** is sanctioned for promoting group farming activities of active padashekhara samithis. The amount will be released to padashekhara samithis on a transparent criterion for promoting group farming and facilitating e-payment system. The Padasekhara Samithies have to be strengthened to encourage group activities by integrating state schemes for rice development, rice development projects of Local Self Governments & rice promotion schemes under RKVY. Consequent to the introduction of e-payment system of crediting subsidy to individual bank account of farmers, the availability of funds for group activities with Padasekhara Samithies are practically nil. In such a situation, operational support of Padasekhara Samithies is an inevitable item for the existence and functioning of Padasekhara Samithies. Hence an amount of Rs.300.00 lakhs is sanctioned as operational support to Padasekhara Samithies for group farming for 83,334 ha @ Rs.360/ha subject to a maximum of Rs.50,000/- padasekharam. The padasekharams having a minimum area of 5 ha alone will be considered for assistance under this programme.

The amount can be utilized for the following activities for the benefit of the individual farmers as group activities.

- a. Renewal of registration.
- b. Maintenance of accounts.
- c. Conducting group meetings, executive committee meetings etc.
- d. Office expenses for printing charges of forms, registers etc.
- e. Laying out of demonstration plots, erecting boards etc.
- f. Repair and maintenance of farm machineries and equipments.
- g. Hiring of machineries during peak seasons.
- h. Maintenance and repair of common bunds, channels etc.
- i. Expenses for the repair of bunds breached due to flood.
- j. Registered seed growers programme.
- k. Additional expenses for dewatering and irrigation.
- l. Selling the produce through Civil Supplies Corporation.
- m. Preparation of claims and statement for e-payment.
- n. Organizing seminars, campaigns, harvest melas with farmers participation, highlighting their achievements.
- o. Development of infrastructural facilities for Selected Group Farming Padasekharams in the Block Area.

p. Mechanisation of tillage operations. Packing and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, pp chemicals and other inputs.

### (C) Operational support to Paddy Development Agencies (Rs.30.00 lakh)

Government of Kerala has constituted 10 Paddy Development Agencies for tackling the problems of rice cultivation in special problem areas. Financial assistance will be provided to the agencies for development of the problem areas for taking up location specific projects based on actual needs. During 2020-21, it is proposed to provide project based assistance to paddy development agencies for undertaking infrastructure development activities in padasekharams for promoting paddy cultivation, including administrative charges limited to 5% of the total project cost.

Assistance will be provided for need based, location specific infrastructure development activities in padasekharams like construction/ strengthening of field bunds, tractor ramps, deepening of irrigation / drainage channels, replacement of petty & para with vertical axial flow pumps, electrification, construction of drying yards, repair of motor shed, culverts etc. to promote paddy cultivation and increase production and productivity. An amount of **Rs.21.10 lakh** is sanctioned for this purpose. Administrative cost (5% of the project cost) comes to **Rs.1.10 lakh** which can be utilised for expenses involved in project implementation and also for day-to-day expenses of the agencies.

An amount of **Rs.4.80 lakh** is also set apart for meeting the honorarium to Vice Chairman of the agencies and **Rs.3.00 lakh** for meeting the sitting fee of the members (average 10 members/ agency).

Sl.No.	Item	Amount (Rs. In lakh)
1	Project based assistance	21.10
2	Administrative cost (5%)	1.10
3	Honorarium to Vice Chairman (Rs. 4000 per month x 12 x 10)	4.80
4	Sitting fee to members once in 2 months (Rs.500X10X6) X 10 agencies	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30.00</b>

An amount of **Rs.30.00 lakh** is proposed for this component.

## 2) Area Expansion

### (a) Fallow Land Cultivation (Rs.312.60 lakhs)

In order to increase rice production in the State, it is important to revive paddy cultivation in paddy lands kept fallow. In order to promote paddy cultivation in rice fallows, it is proposed to give assistance for a continuous period of 3 years in a phased manner in project mode and also to institutionalize fallow land cultivation wherever possible. The assistance for bringing new area under cultivation will be sanctioned as part of the 'COVID

19 Mitigation proposal for Agriculture'. An amount of Rs.312.60 lakh is set apart for providing financial assistance II and III year of fallow land cultivation as given below:

(Amount in Rs.)

Year	Assistance for the land owner/ha (Rs)	Assistance for the cultivator/ ha (Rs)	Total assistance /ha (Rs)	Total area to be covered (Ha)	Total amount set apart (Rs in lakh)
II Year	3500	5800	7000	3190	223.30
III Year	750	3750	4500	1984	89.28
<b>Total</b>					<b>312.60</b>

### 3. Registered Seed Growers Programme (RSGP) (Rs.125.00 lakhs)

Availability of quality seeds, that too suited to and raised in the region, will find more favour with the farmer. Registered Seed Growers' Programme (RSGP) ensures the availability of certified seeds suitable to the locality. Existing rules and norms for the scheme will be followed.

Seed is considered to be the cheapest and most efficient input compared with other costly inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, water etc., to bring out the maximum yield potential. Since seed is the critical input driving crop productivity and production targets, the use of good quality seeds by the farmers have to be ensured. Generally our farmers depend on authorized sources for 30% of their seed requirement.

In Kerala, the Department of Agriculture is the certification agency. Kerala State Seed Development Agency (KSSDA) co-ordinate the seed production, seed processing, seed procurement and seed distribution in Kerala and will co-ordinate the activities from Foundation seed production in State Seed Farms to certified production by Registered seed growers.

In Kerala, the aim of KSSDA is to raise the Seed Replacement Ratio (SRR) to 50% in the coming seasons and coming years. i.e., 9000 MT quality seeds of rice every year.

#### Objectives of the programme

- To increase the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) to 50% by ensuring timely supply of quality paddy seeds to the farmers
- Supply foundation seeds free of cost to Registered Seed Growers
- To produce quality certified paddy seeds.
- To involve more farmers into cultivating paddy crop.
- Ensure lucrative price for the procured seed to Registered Seed Growers
- To cultivate paddy seeds of different varieties needed by the rice farmers of Kerala.

In order to ensure the availability of certified seeds suitable to the locality, Registered Seed Growers Programme will be continued in the State with the co-operation of Kerala Agricultural University, State Seed Production Centres, Krishibhavans and farmers of registered Padashekhara Samithies at Panchayat level. Seed Production programme is to be

implemented in the following districts viz., Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram districts in around 2500 hectares. Foundation seeds are produced in various state seed production centres from the breeder seeds obtained from Kerala Agricultural University. These foundation seeds are used for raising the required quantity of registered seed which is distributed to farmers. Under this programme, it is proposed to supply Foundation seeds free of cost to the Registered Seed Growers.

A list of Registered Seed Growers (RSGs) shall be maintained as a database at all levels from Krishibhavans to Directorate.

### **Assistance for RSGP seed distribution**

The programme will be implemented through KSSDA based on the targets assigned by the Director of Agriculture to each district. It is proposed to supply foundation seeds free of cost to the Registered Farmers for a total area of 2500 Ha. The foundation seeds are taken from the State Seed Farms of the Department.

### **Implementation**

1. Registered Seed Growers Programme will be implemented by the Agricultural officers of the Krishibhavan.
2. Kerala State Seed Development Authority will be the nodal agency for implementing the programme and for procurement and marketing of seeds.
3. Foundation seeds will be distributed free of cost to the farmers for multiplication under Registered Seed Growers Programme.
4. The Padasekhara Samithy will register itself with the State Seed Certification Agency (SSCA), the Addl. Director of Agriculture (CP), Directorate of Agriculture with proper application and registration fee (Rs.25/-) remitted in the treasury.
5. Padasekhara Samithy will take nominal membership with Kerala State Seed Development Authority by remitting the fee Rs.2000/- and Rs.10/- for application form and execute an agreement with the latter.
6. Padasekhara Samithy shall take up seed multiplication under RSGP by adopting all Scientific Cultivation Practices, isolation distance, rouging of off types etc.
7. Training to farmers and officials will be conducted.
8. Additional Director of Agriculture, KSSDA will arrange to conduct necessary trainings to the padasekhara Samithy and officers based on need. The training schedule should be chalked out by the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority in consultation with the PAOs well in advance of the programme implementation
9. The Agricultural officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan shall be personally responsible for giving guidance to the farmers and shall ensure adherence, by the farmer, of recommended processes and practices.
10. Assistant Director of Agriculture at Block level/Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavan will conduct three inspections of the fields as per Seeds Act.
11. The Agricultural Officer will ensure that proper drying and pre cleaning has been done and will certify the same before samples are taken by Seed Inspectors.
12. Assistant Director of Agriculture should inspect the Seed lot and draw samples from each lot. Composite sample of the lot will be send to the seed-testing laboratory for analysis.
13. Senior Seed Analyst will conduct the testing of the certification samples within 15 days of receipt of samples and furnish the results of standard samples to the concerned



Seed Inspector with a copy to the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority within 30 days on receipt of sample. Seed inspectors will furnish all the required details of registration, inspection, test results and certificates to the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) for getting certification tag.

14. Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority immediately after getting the Certification Tag Number, will arrange the processing of the procured seed at the processing centre, with necessary labeling and tagging.
15. The stock will be immediately lifted by the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority either to the Krishibhavan on demand and make the payments to the Padasekhara Samithy. If there are any complaints with respect to viability of the seeds, the same should be informed to KSSDA within 10 days of receipt of seed.
16. The benefits under RDP will be provided without limitation of area of the individual beneficiary

### Financial Outlay

#### Cost of Foundation seed

Season	Area (ha)	Seed Rate (kg/ha)	FS seed Requirement (MT)	Rate Rs/kg	Total cost (Rs. in lakhs)
Virippu	1450	80	116	40	46.40
Mundakan	1050	80	84	40	33.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>2500</b>				<b>80.00</b>

#### Training expenses

Sl. No.	No. of Trainings	No. of participants	Amount /Training (Rs)	Total Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	10	50	20,000/-	2.00

Cost of Gunny Bags (30 kg bags) required for packing processed paddy seeds is **Rs. 38.00 lakhs**

Total Financial Outlay = **Rs 125.00 lakhs**

#### 4) Operationalisation of Paddy Land and Wet Land Conservation Act 2008 (Rs.50.00 lakhs)

An amount of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** is set apart for Operationalisation of Paddy Land and Wet Land Conservation Act 2008. The amount will be utilised for providing project based assistance to Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre (KSREC) for finalising the data bank of paddy land and wet land utilising satellite technology with the support the Agricultural Officers of Krishibhavans, so as to assess the actual area under paddy cultivation and wet lands and prevent their illegal conversion. This will be implemented in a phased manner. This activity has been initiated during 2016-17 and so far 250 LSGDs have been covered.

#### Abstract

The component wise breakup is summarized as follows :

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
<b>1</b>	<b>Group Farming</b>	
a	Sustainable Rice Development (Input assistance @ Rs.5500/ha) -	2666.40
b	Operational support to Padasekhara Samithies for Group Farming	300.00
c	Operational support to Paddy Development Agencies	30.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Area expansion</b>	
a	Promotion of Fallow Land Cultivation (IInd & IIIRD years)	312.60
<b>3</b>	<b>Registered Seed Growers Programme (RSGP)</b>	125.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Operationalization of Paddy and Wet Land Act 2008</b>	50.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3484.00</b>

In the circumstances mentioned above, continuous administrative sanction is hereby issued for implementation of ongoing components of the scheme 'Rice Development' during 2020-21 for an amount of **Rs.3484.00 lakhs (Rupees thirty four crores and eighty four lakhs Only)**, as per the above statement, debiting expenditure to head of account **2401-00-102-90 (Plan)** from current years' budget provision of Rs.11824.00 lakhs. The scheme shall be implemented abiding by the terms and conditions stipulated in the Government Orders read above.

As per G.O read as reference (10) above, fund allocation for schemes have to be provided AEU wise. Accordingly, implementing sections at the Directorate of Agriculture will provide AEU wise fund allocation while issuing working instructions for the scheme.

Monthly progress report should invariably contain component wise physical and financial targets and achievements and the stage of implementation of each component. Since the 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 utilized for such beneficiaries (component wise) should also be separately shown in the monthly progress report.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

*[Signature]*  
Deputy Director of Agriculture (P/g)  
Directorate of Agriculture  
Thiruvananthapuram

To

TA Section 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