

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

(Present : Dr.K.Vasuki I A S)

Sub: Annual Plan 2020-21 – Scheme on ‘**Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices**’ – Continuous Administrative Sanction accorded – orders issued.

Read: 1) G.O.(Rt)No. 644/2017/AD dated.29.06.2017
2) Order No. TP(2) 12930/19 dated.04-06-2019.
3) Annual Plan 2020-21
4) Circular No. S.S.1/132 (1)/2020/Fin dated. 30.3.2020.
5) Circular no.21/2000/Fin dated.08/4/2020.

Order No. ADFW/475/2020-TP(2)

Dated: 30.04.2020.

Government of Kerala, vide order read 1st above accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of various components of the scheme, ‘Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices’ during 2017-18 for an amount of Rs.775.00 lakhs. Continuous Administrative Sanction was accorded for the scheme during 2019-20 vide reference (2) cited.

Objectives

- Making farming sustainable, remunerative and sustainable.
- Ensure agricultural biodiversity and food and nutritional security.
- Create organic villages with the active participation of farmers and farmers groups (clusters).
- Ensure the local availability of organic inputs by promoting their on farm production units.
- Strengthening the marketing of organic produce and ensuring profitability.
- Facilitate and support certification of organic produce.
- Promote Good Agricultural Practices in Kuttanad Special Agricultural Zone.
- Ensure safety in food production.

During the financial year 2020-21, there is a budget provision of Rs.162.00 lakhs for the scheme ‘Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices’ under head of account 2401-00-105-85 (P) with the following components:

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Assistance for ecoshops for marketing	47.00
2	Support for implementation	40.00

3	Organic farming of fruits and vegetables through SHGs and certification-VFPCCK	75.00
	Total	162.00

Out of this, an amount of Rs.0.075 lakh was allotted for encashment of bills not e-submitted to treasury upto 31.3.2020 and submitted on or before 18/4/2020 as per Circular cited (4) above and an amount of Rs. 79.2212 lakh was allotted for encashment of 'Queue' bills & WAMS clearance bills of 2019-20 as per Circular cited (5) above. Hence the balance available for issuing Administrative sanction during 2020-21 is only Rs.82.7038 lakh as stipulated in the above mentioned circulars.

The assistance from the centrally sponsored scheme "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" will be utilized for developing organic farming clusters and providing financial assistance.

As per the Annual Plan 2020-21, the following components of the scheme are proposed to be continued during the current financial year.

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Assistance for ecoshops for marketing	42.7038
2	Support for implementation	40.00
	Total	82.7038

Component wise details are furnished below:

1. Assistance for ecoshops for marketing – Rs.42.7038 lakhs

Ecoshops are proposed to be established for carrying out marketing of organic produce. During 2019-20, 13 new ecoshops were established taking the total number of ecoshops established so far to 261 numbers. The safe-to-eat produce of GAP clusters produced following GAP standards can be sold through these outlets with proper packing and labelling at premium price. Ecoshops may be established on franchisee mode by the farmers organisation so as to get the benefit to the farmers and shall be established in appropriate places like near the main Government offices, bus stands etc. The produce offered for sale should be packed and labelled. Assistant Directors of Agriculture should identify suitable building for starting the ecoshops.

An amount of **Rs 2.00 lakhs per unit** is sanctioned for establishing **new ecoshops** i.e. creating infrastructure facilities, transporting of organic produce, procurement expenses and working capital etc for each ecoshop and out of this one lakh is to be set apart as revolving fund. Thus an amount of **Rs.28.00 lakhs is earmarked for establishing 14 (fourteen) new Ecoshops**. The programme for each ecoshop shall be approved by Principal Agriculture Officer. A committee headed by the head of local body will select a suitable facilitator from among the cluster

members. Deputy Director of Agriculture (NWDPPRA), Assistant Director of Agriculture (Marketing), Assistant Director of Agriculture of the block, leader of the clusters and Agricultural Officer will be the members of the committee. The committee can fix the remuneration for the facilitator from the date of functioning of the ecoshop. ADA (M) of the Principal Agricultural Offices will closely monitor the functioning of all the ecoshops and ensure that only GAP certified produce are sold through ecoshops. Quantity of produce sold and cost realised should be collected by ADA (M) on monthly basis.

An amount of **Rs.14.7038 lakh** is earmarked for providing assistance for **15 existing ecoshops started during 2019-20, @ Rs.1.00 lakh for 14 no. and 0.7038 lakh for the balance 1 ecoshop.**

2. Support for implementation (Rs.40.00 lakh)

A. Maintenance of State Organic Farming Cell and District level Man Power Support – Rs.39.86 lakhs

The three tier agricultural extension machinery of the Department of Agriculture, functioning at Panchayat, block and district levels, will verify the safe-to-eat and PGS agricultural practices followed by the farmers at field level. It is proposed to engage additional man power for co-ordinating, supporting and documenting the activities at State level and at district level.

The adoption and certification activities in Kasargod district initiated in the last few years will be taken up by the VFCK for PGS certification only. GAP activities will be carried out by department of Agriculture. In all other districts of the State, all activities will be implemented by the Department of Agriculture. All efforts will be done to ensure Good Agricultural Practices & Safe-to-eat food production in general. The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) will be adopted for organic certification. The Principal Agricultural Office will act as Regional Council for the respective district and the certification will be carried out through the 3 tier extension machinery.

The Principal Agricultural Officers at district level will have overall control of the programme. Deputy Director of Agriculture (NWDPPRA) is designated as the District Nodal Officer (DNO), The Assistant Director of Agriculture (Marketing) as the Certificate Issuing Officer (CIO) and Agricultural Officers of the area as Inspectors. The ADAs at block level will co-ordinate the activities under his jurisdiction. The Secretaries of Agriculture Wholesale Markets will also involve in the activity.

At State level, Directorate of Agriculture may be registered as the Zonal Council with Additional Director of Agriculture (M) as the State Nodal Officer of the Zonal Council. He will be supported by the Joint Director of Agriculture (PP) under whom the State Organic Farming Cell will function.

The State Organic Farming Cell and Manpower Support at District level will continue to function for effective co-ordination of the programme at State and district levels.

i) State Organic Farming Cell (Rs. 6.12 lakh)

The State Organic Farming Cell constituted at the Directorate of Agriculture to co-ordinate the organic farming activities of the State will continue to function observing its mandate. An amount of Rs.6.12 lakhs will be set apart for meeting the expenses of the State Organic Farming Cell as follows.

Designation	Number	Mode of appointment	Remuneration	Amount required (Rs in lakhs)
Technology Manager	1	On contract	Rs.25000/- pm for 12 months	3.00
Organic Farming Facilitator	2	On contract	Rs.13000/- pm for 12 months	3.12
TOTAL				6.12

The Cell should maintain real time updated data on the various activities occurring in the State and the area, production and marketing of produce. They should maintain update market information regarding organic produces both in intrastate and interstate markets and even international markets and provide proper guidance to farmers and ecoshops for the sale and marketing of farmers' produce.

The Technology Manager will assist the Co-ordinator in effectively performing his duties for the successful implementation of the programme.

The data entry operator will maintain updated data of the programme and work under the control of the Co-ordinator.

ii) District level man power (Rs.33.74 lakh)

The following additional man power will continued to be employed at district level for effective implementation of the programme with a provision of **Rs.33.88 lakhs**, as follows.

Designation	Number	Mode of appointment	Remuneration	Amount required (Rs in lakhs)
Technology Manager	1 per district, for 14 districts	On contract	Rs.25000/- pm for 06 months	21.00
Facilitator	1 per district, for 14 districts	On contract	Rs.13000/- pm for 07 months	12.74
TOTAL				33.74

The additional staff of State Organic Farming Cell will be appointed by the Director of Agriculture by following standard procedure and will function under the direct control of Additional Director of Agriculture (CP).

The additional staff at District level will be appointed by the Principal Agricultural Officer by following standard procedure and will function under the direct control of the concerned Deputy Director of Agriculture at district head quarters. As the remuneration for the additional staff at district level is insufficient to meet their requirement for 12 months, this may be met through additional authorization *vide* proposals received for the same.

The various manpower support provided under the Scheme will be appointed by adhering to the G.O.(P) No.81/2019/Fin dated 09/07/2019.

A Technical Committee may be constituted at State level for periodical evaluation of the organic farming activities in the field and for processing of award applications with the Director of Agriculture as the Chairman, the State coordinator (Organic farming cell) as the Convenor, Additional Director of Agriculture (M), Chief (Agriculture) of State Planning Board and Mission Director State Horticulture Mission as members.

B. Operational expenses

An amount of **Rs.0.14 lakh** is set apart as operational expenses for supporting scheme implementation including documentation, office expenses, travel etc.

Sl. No.	Sub component	Amount earmarked (Rs. in lakhs)
A	Maintenance of State Organic Farming Cell and District level Man Power Support	
i	State Organic Farming Cell	6.12
ii	District level man power	33.74
B	Operational expenses	0.14
	G.Total	40.00

Financial Outlay

During the current financial year, there is a budget provision of Rs.162.00 lakh for the scheme 'Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices' under head of account 2401-00-105-85 (P). Out of this an amount of Rs. 82.7038 lakh is proposed to be utilised for implementation of the following continuing components.

Sl. No.	Component	Physical target	Rate of assistance (Rs.)	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Management of existing Ecoshops and establishment of new Ecoshops	New- 14 no.s, Existing -15 no.s	2.00 lakhs/unit 1.00 lakh/unit	42.7038
2	Support for implementation – Man power support at State and District level and Operational expenses including documentation and transportation			40.00
	Total			82.7038

In the circumstances mentioned above, continuous administrative sanction is hereby accorded and orders issued for implementation of the scheme '**Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices**' during 2020-21, for an amount of **Rs. 82.7038 lakhs (Rupees Eighty two lakhs seventy thousand three hundred and eighty only)**, as per the above statement, debiting expenditure to head of account 2401-00-105-85 (Plan) from current years' budget provision. The scheme shall be implemented abiding by the terms and conditions stipulated in the Government Orders read above.

Since agriculture is a season bound activity, timely implementation of the scheme has to be ensured and this should be reflected in the monthly booking of expenditure from April 2020 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 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 utilised for such beneficiaries (component wise) should also be separately shown in the monthly progress report.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

To

Organic Farming Cell of the Directorate of Agriculture
Thiruvananthapuram

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