



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Agriculture Department - Revamping the paddy procurement system - Constitution of an *Expert Committee* to study the present mode of paddy procurement , in order to resolve the issues and complaints - Orders - issued.

AGRICULTURE (PLANNING-A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.12/2023/AGRI Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 23-01-2023

Read 1 Meeting held on 11/01/2023 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Food & Civil Supplies Department).

2 Note No. CA/182/Prl.Secy/Agri/2023 dated: 16/01/2023.

ORDER

A meeting was convened on 11/01/2023 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Food & Civil Supplies Department) along with the Hon'ble Ministers of Agriculture Department, Local Self Government Department and Power Department to resolve the issues/complaints that plague the present paddy procurement system. While examining specific complaints alleging pilferage, price arbitrage or switching with PDS etc., it is found that a systemic/process analysis is urgently needed, and hence decided in the meeting that the Director of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare Department with the support of Supplyco, must undertake a quick process review study on the present mode of paddy procurement.

2) In the circumstance, Government are pleased to constitute an Expert Committee with the following Experts/Members to study the present mode of paddy procurement in order to resolve the issues/complaints that plague the present paddy procurement system.

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|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Dr. V.K. Baby, IAS (Rtd) | - Chairman |
| 2 | Dr. Sriram Venkitaraman, IAS,
General Manager, Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation and ED,VAAM | - Convener |
| 3 | Smt. L.R. Aarathi IES, Special Officer, WTO Cell, Department of Agriculture | - Co-convener & Member Secretary |

3) The above committee will finalize suitable Terms of Reference on the following indicative list, and also associate any officer of Directorate Of Agriculture/Directorate of Civil Supplies/Supplyco to assist the work.

I. Review the process prescribed by the Directorate of Agriculture/GoI and Supplyco from extant orders and identify systemic gaps/snags/unproductive loops providing for complaints/lacunae noted.

II. Review it with various stakeholders such as Farmers, Officers and Millers.

III. Recent Court interventions/judgments/implications/remedial measures.

IV. Role of IT/Remote sensing in improving the process and outcome.

V. Whether investing/spending in procurement of rice is the best way to advance the case of the rice farmers and all other stakeholders.

4) The Additional Director of Marketing will handle expenditure aspects for the study report. An Office space and DEO/TA/OA on will be provided by CMD Supplyco. Hired vehicles may be placed for the Chairman/Members during assignment. Non official members will be eligible to TA/DA as applicable for class I officer/least rank held. The Member Secretary will invoice the relevant head of account. CMD Supplyco will render all learning support and support transport/office assistance as seen necessary requested by the Chair/ Member Secretary. The Study will be completed in 60 days and report made available to Government.

5) District Collectors of Alappuzha, Palakkad, Malappuram and Thrissur to conduct stakeholders / key important consultations.

6) A reasonable consolidated fee will be paid to the non official Members/Chairman. TA/DA will be defrayed by the Director of

Agriculture from suitable Head of Account.

(By order of the Governor)
AJITHDAS A
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

Dr. V.K.Baby, IAS (Rtd) ,

Dr. Sriram Venkitaraman IAS, GM, KSCSC & ED, VAAM

Smt. L.R.Aarathi IES, Special Officer, WTO Cell, Department of
Agriculture

The Director of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare
Department, Thiruvananthapuram

The District Collectors Alappuzha/Palakkad/Malappuram/Thrissur

The CMD Supplyco .

The Accountant General (A&E/Audit1/Audit2), Thiruvananthapuram

The Chief (Agri), State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram

The Food & Civil Supplies Department

The Planning and Economic Affairs Department

The I&PRD (Web & New Media)

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Section Officer