

CIRCULAR

Sub: Agriculture Department – Annual Plan 2018-19 – Special Agricultural Zone (SAZ) for infrastructure and filling critical gaps - Administrative Sanction accorded – Working Instructions issued – Reg.

Ref. 1. G.O(MS)No: 128/2017/AD Thiruvananthapuram Dtd. 12/10/2017

2. G.O(MS)No: 22/2018/AD Thiruvananthapuram Dtd. 19/02/2018

3. Order No. TP (2) 17170/2018 TVM dtd 07.05.2018 of Director of Agriculture

As per the reference cited 1st above, administrative sanction has been accorded for the scheme “Special Agricultural Zone (SAZ)” for infrastructure development activities and filling of critical gap for an amount of Rs. 985 lakhs subject to the condition that amount will be released after detailed examination of DPR by the Government.

Vide reference 2nd above, the DPR of the various Special Agricultural Zones proposed by the Department was accorded sanction in 2017-18 and an amount of Rs. 970 lakhs for infrastructural development and for filling critical gaps of Special Agricultural Zones was released. Only critical intervention in undergoing infrastructure development and filling critical gaps which cannot be supported under any one of the ongoing schemes will be supported by the funds earmarked under the Special Agricultural Zone scheme. Since Government sanction for funds release was received in the last fortnight of February, only the if preliminary steps for the implementation of the various infrastructure development and critical gap filling activities envisaged under the scheme could be carried out during 2017-18. Hence the programme sanctioned during 2017-18 is proposed to be continued and completed during 2018-19. As per the reference cited 3rd above continues administrative sanction is accorded for the implementation of scheme ‘Special Agricultural Zone’ during 2018-19 for an amount of Rs. 985 lakhs debited expenditure to head of account 2401-00-102-79 plan of current year’s budget.

Special Agricultural Zone is a flag ship programme included in the annual plan 2017-18. A total of 15 zones are designated for the major crops. Special Agricultural Zone is selected for each crop. Special Agricultural Zone refers to contiguous geographical area which have specific agro-climatic

condition and manpower envisaged for the cultivation of a particular crop, so that through a focused approach and convergence of all primary requirements from seeds to harvesting including post harvesting facilities, maximum production and productivity of the crop can be achieved.

OBJECTIVES

- To follow a cropping system approach for holistic development of crops and enterprises.
- To accelerate investment in the essential infrastructure required for the crop from 'Seed to Plate'
- To promote mechanisation of operation for achieving timeliness and efficiency in cultural operations
- To augment the production and productivity of crops
- To promote generation of employment opportunities for agricultural labourers and other skilled persons
- To provide all facilities to the farming community for profitable crop production
- To ensure eco-friendly Good Agricultural Practices and production of safe to eat products.
- To gain maximum income from agriculture and to attract and sustain youth in this field.

I. Special Agricultural Zone for vegetables

Sl. No.	District	Name of Zone	Amount earmarked (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Alappuzha	Kanjikuzhy	51.78
2	Idukki	Devikulam	76.45
3	Palakkad	Chittur-Nenmara	71.24
4	Thrissur	Pazhayannur	20.00
		TOTAL	219.47

II. Special Agricultural Zone for Banana

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Pack house (for group of banana growers)	7.00
2	Special promotion for chengalikodan banana (Kazhchakula)	15.00
	TOTAL	22.00

Total Amount for Special Agricultural Zone For Vegetable & Banana – Rs. 241.47 Lakhs

I. SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE FOR VEGETABLES

1. Kanjikuzhy Special Agricultural Zone

Kanjikuzhy SAZ is proposed to be implemented in Alappuzha district in the northern region comprising of Alappuzha, Cherthala, Kuthiathode and Panavally block areas. The area is situated mostly in the costal belt consisting of sandy tract. At present total area under cultivation is 548 ha in the proposed SAZ with an average production of 11Mt/ha. At present 17 clusters and 8 cluster markets are functioning in this area. This includes 13 panchayaths and 1 municipality.

Strategy

- To bring additional 30 clusters
- To increase the area of vegetable cultivation to 1250 ha.
- To make the SAZ area self sufficient in vegetable production.
- To promote youth towards agriculture
- Familiarisation of mechanisation.
- Improving marketing facilities

Activities Proposed

- Land and infrastructure development
- Soil test based nutrient application
- Popularisation of grafted seedlings
- Popularisation of INM IPM
- Crop health management activities.
- Mechanization.
- Credit facilities to SHG/JLG.
- Training and awareness programme
- Processing and marketing facilities
- Value addition
- Visit of MDDT
- Crop insurance
- Co-ordination, Monitoring

Activities proposed for 2017-18 utilising SAZ funds (Infrastructure Development and Filling Critical Gaps) (Rs.51.78 lakhs)

Sl. No	Component	Amount (Rs. In lakhs)
1	Purchase of need based machineries for karshika karmasenas	24.00
2	Construction of permanent panthal	27.00
3	Tail pond construction/ repairing	0.78
	TOTAL	51.78

The detailed working instruction and allotment of funds will be made by the implement sections. The implementing sections are as given below.

1. Purchase of need based machineries for karshika karmasenas - TG
2. Construction of permanent panthal - TG
3. Tail pond construction/ repairing - TG

2. Devikulam Special Agricultural Zone

Devikulam Special Agricultural Zone is in Idukki district which include 6 Grama Panchayats ie; Vattavada, Kanthalloor, Marayur, Devikulam, Munnar and Chinnacanal. The total area of vegetable cultivation in this zone is 4999 ha with 75600 MT cool season vegetable production. The main crops cultivating are potato, cabbage, carrot, beans, beetroot and garlic.

Strategy

- Popularization of agricultural mechanization to reduce the cost of cultivation.
- Introduction of new crops
- Procurement, processing Value Addition and Marketing of the agricultural produces.
- Providing interest free agriculture loan to the farmers
- Popularization of Good Agricultural Practises including INM, IPM etc.
- Soil Conservation and land development works for improvement of infrastructural facilities.
- Establishment of a field research centre under Kerala Agricultural University
- Promote employment generation activities to Agricultural labourers
- To provide all facilities to the farming community for profitable crop production.
- Upliftment per capita income of farmers.

Activities Proposed

- Infrastructure development for increasing the irrigation facilities
- Soil conservation works, Construction of canals
- Supply of good quality seeds and other planting materials
- Soil testing and supply of nutrients according to the soil test basis
- Establishment of nurseries for the production of good quality planting materials
- Popularization of Good Agricultural Practices
- On farm Production of Organic manures and bio control agents
- Crop Health Management practices
- Agricultural Mechanization through Agro Service Centres
- Interest free credit facilities through joint liability groups
- Training and other extension activities
- Processing value addition and Marketing
- Crop Insurance
- Country plough with bullock and accessories.
- Supply of mule for transportation
- Mini diary units

Activities proposed for 2017-18 utilising SAZ funds (Infrastructure Development and Filling Critical Gaps) (Rs.76.45 lakhs)

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs. In lakhs)
1	Establishment of Agro Pharmacy at Vattavada/ Kanthallur	6.00
2	Establishment of plant health clinics at Munnar/ Devikulam/Marayur	5.00
3	Agro Service Centres (At Vattavada and Kanthallur)	34.70
4	Demonstration of live fencing with honey bees (25 box/unit)@75% subsidy	11.25
5	Carrot and Beet root cleaning washing and packing machine	12.00
6	Steam Distillation Unit for Lemon grass	7.50
	Total	76.45

The implementing section are as given below.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Establishment of Agro Pharmacy at Vattavada/ Kanthallur | - OF |
| 2. Establishment of plant health clinics at Munnar/ Devikulam/Marayur | - TD |
| 3. Agro Service Centres (At Vattavada and Kanthallur) | - TV(1) |
| 4. Demonstration of live fencing with honey bees (25 box/unit)@75% subsidy | - TD |
| 5. Carrot and Beet root cleaning washing and packing machine | - TG |
| 6. Steam Distillation Unit for Lemon grass | - TG |

3. Chittur Special Agricultural Zone

Special Agricultural Zone for vegetables in Palakkad district is Chittoor – Nenmara area. This zone include major vegetables producing panchayts ie; Elavanchery, Ayilur, Nenmara, Vadakarapathy, Eruthiyampathi, Kozhinjampara and Perumatty.

Strategy

- To increase the area, production, productivity of vegetables
- To improve marketing and credit facilities
- To enhance net income of farmers from unit area by increasing productivity
- Popularize hi-tech scientific crop production technologies in vegetables

Activities proposed

- Soil test based nutrient application
- Ensure timely availability of good quality seeds and other planting materials
- Conservation of Ethnic, indigenous varieties
- Popularization of Good Agricultural Practices including IPM and INM
- Improve irrigation facilities and other water management system
- Popularizing organic and bio control methods for pest and disease management
- Crop Health Management practices and establishment Agro clinic for popularising integrated methods of pest and disease of management including supply of sticky pheromone and light trap
- Mechanization through Karmasena
- Create opportunities for farmers to get adequate credit through providing green cards

- Transfer of new scientific technologies among farmers
- Processing and marketing of the farm produce
- Value addition and post harvest management of the produce
- Ensure multi disciplinary diagnostic team visit at regular intervals to study the crop performance
- To ensure crop insurance
- Co-ordination and monitoring activities

Activities proposed for 2017-18 utilising SAZ funds (Infrastructure Development and Filling Critical Gaps) (Rs.71.24 lakhs)

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Crop health clinics	10.00
2	Formation of farmer producer organizations at Nenmara	61.24
	Total	71.24

The detailed working instruction and allotment of funds will be made by the implementing sections. The implementing sections are as given below.

1. Crop health clinics - TD
2. Formation of farmer producer organizations at Nenmara - VC

Formation of Farmer Producer Organisation – Rs.61.24 lakhs

It is proposed to constitute Farmer Producer Organisation in the Chittur-Nenmara SAZ for diversifying the activities of the farmer collectively from production to marketing and ploughing back maximum returns from the terminal market. Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) will be constituted at panchayat level and federated at block level following AMUL model. The funds earmarked for the component will be utilised as follows.

Sl. No.	Items	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Infrastructure development activities (setting office, furniture, post harvest management, value addition and marketing facilities, etc. purchase of vehicle not allowed)	20.00
2	Transport subsidy for the produce @ Rs.1.5 per kg up to 25 km,	10.24

	Rs.2.00 per kg above 25km up to 50 km and Rs.2.5 per kg above 50 km	
3	Revolving fund (for registration, making spot payment, hiring of vehicles, other essential activities etc)	31.00
	Total	61.24

VC section is the implementing section. Principal Agricultural Officer, Palakkad is to give a detailed proposal for the easy and smooth implementation of above components as they were not included in the DPR.

4. Pazhayannur Special Agricultural Zone

Pazhayannur can be said as vegetable basket of Thrissur district. Pazhayannur Special Agriculture Zone for vegetable comprises 6 panchayats viz. Thiruvilwamala, Pazhayannur, Kondazhy, Chelakkara, Vallathole nagar and Panjad. Farmers of this area prefer to grow vegetable over other crops since vegetable cultivation is more profitable than any other crop cultivation. Total area of cultivation is 355 ha, involving 1011 farmers. The production of the area is 3525 MT with an average productivity of 9.93 MT/ha. The main varieties cultivating this area are as follows.

Cowpea – NS 622, Lola

Bitter gourd – Preethi, Maya

Pumpkin - Ambili

Ashgourd - KAU local

Snakegourd – Kaumudi

Objectives

- Augment area, production and productivity of the crop
- Development of new varieties suitable to the SAZ.

Proposed interventions

Crop based interventions

- Area expansion programme for safe to eat vegetable production following GAP
- Ecofriendly crop health management following IPDM
- Open precision farming with drip and mulching system, including water soluble fertilisers.
- Development of new location specific varieties through KAU

Infrastructure Development Activities

- Mechanisation – supply of power sprayers, dusters, weed cutters, mini tractors, wheel barrows etc

Post harvest management

- Packing, labelling and retail marketing of vegetables

Other activities

- Insurance coverage to farmers

Activities proposed for 2017-18 utilising SAZ funds (Infrastructure Development and Filling Critical Gaps) (Rs.20.00 lakhs)

Sl. No.	Activities	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
1	Farm mechanization (Purchase of sprayers, dusters, weed cutters, mini tractors, wheel barrow etc) for groups	15.00
2	Packing, labeling and retail marketing of vegetables	5.00
	Total	20.00

The implementing sections are as follows.

1. Farm mechanization (Purchase of sprayers, dusters, weed cutters, mini tractors, - TG
wheel barrow etc) for groups
2. Packing, labeling and retail marketing of vegetables - TM

II. SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE FOR BANANA

Special Agricultural Zone for banana, Thrissur, covering an area of 7424 ha of banana cultivation which includes 6 Taluks and 16 Blocks. Thrissur district is known for best class banana. Major varieties are Nenthuran, Poojakadali, Chengalikodan etc. Poojakadali has a high demand in temples especially Guruvayur. Chengalikodan is locally unique geo tagged variety. 'Kazhchakula' of Thrissur district are value added eye catching bunches used for ceremonial purposes.

Strategy

- To increase the area, production and productivity
- To ensure steady supply of banana through out the year by providing adequate irrigation facilities
- Ensure timely availability of good quality planting materials including tissue culture banana

Activities proposed

- Popularization of unique varieties of Thrissur district to larger area
- Integrated Pest Management
- Healthy Soil Health Management Practices
- Popularization of mechanization
- Post harvest handling, processing and marketing – ripening chambers, special packaging, typical pack house etc to increase the export

Activities proposed for 2017-18 utilising SAZ funds (Infrastructure Development and Filling Critical Gaps) (Rs.22.00 lakhs)

Sl. No.	Component	Amount (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Pack house (for group of banana growers)	7.00
2	Special promotion for chengalikodan banana (Kazhchakula)	15.00
	TOTAL	22.00

The implementing sections are as follows.

- 1 Pack house (for group of banana growers) - TM
- 2 Special promotion for chengalikodan banana (Kazhchakula) - VC

Special Promotion of Chengalikodan Nendran (Kazhchakula) – Rs.15.00 lakhs

Chengalikodan Nendran variety of banana has GI registration. However its market potential both at domestic and international levels remains underutilised. It is proposed to give special attention to the variety by promoting group activity for enhancing production, laying out demonstration plots and conducting awareness & skill development programmes for producing quality produce, providing infrastructure facilities for post harvest management and marketing including market promotion. The funds earmarked for the component will be utilised for the following activities.

Sl. No.	Items	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Additional assistance for promotion of group activities like propping, covering of bunches etc for getting quality produce (Rs.20000/ha)	10.00
2	Laying out demonstration plots 0.4 ha size (Rs.20000/plot)	1.00
3	Awareness and skill development programmes	0.25

4	Infrastructure facilities for post harvest management and marketing	2.00
5	Documentation including DVD production	0.50
6	Market promotion to exploit the potential of GI registration at domestic and international levels	1.25
	Total	15.00

As the component, Special Agricultural Zone for Banana - Promotion of Chengalikodan Nendran is added in addition to those in DPR, the Principal Agricultural Officer concerned is directed to submit a detailed proposal for the smooth and easy implementation of the above components.

Terms and Conditions to be followed while implementing the scheme

- 1) The provision under Special Agricultural Zone scheme shall be utilised only for group based activities.
- 2) No individual assistance shall be provided under the scheme.
- 3) Technical sanction from competent authority has to be obtained wherever applicable before implementation.
- 4) Government norms and rates have to be strictly adhered to for purchases, works etc.
- 5) Detailed action plan and calendar for activities have to be prepared and communicated to the Director of Agriculture prior to implementation.

Implementation, Monitoring & Reporting

Implementation – At the district level scheme will be implemented by Principal Agricultural Officer concerned. The Deputy Directors of Agriculture concerned and the Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri) will be in charge of implementation. **At state level individual implementing section will issue detailed working instruction and allot funds to districts and look after the implementation and VC Section being the Nodal Section will be in charge of the overall implementation of the scheme. The sections wise fund details to be allotted to districts is enclosed as Annexure – 1.**


Monitoring – At district level, Principal Agricultural Officer concerned will be in charge of monitoring of the scheme. The Deputy Director of Agriculture concerned and the Assistant Executive Engineer(Agri) will be in charge of monitoring of various districts coming under their jurisdiction. At state level, monitoring will be done by concerned implementing sections and VC Section.

A separate Register for Special Agricultural Zone has to be maintained by the nodal section & implementing section at state level and by the Principal Agricultural Officer at district level which shall be kept updated for providing relative information.

Reporting – Status report of the achievement of Special Agricultural Zone is to be furnished by Principal Agricultural Officer to the concerned implementing section on a fortnightly basis in the 30th and 12th of every month. The implementing sections will furnish the consolidated progress report to VC Section on 1st and 15th of every succeeding month, so that consolidated report can be given to planning section on 3rd and 17th of every month.

Expenditure in this regard may be debited to the Head of Account 2401-00-102-79 plan.

To,
The Principal Agricultural Officers
Alappuzha, Idukki, Thrissur & Palakkad

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture

Senior Agricultural Officer(vc)
Directorate of AD & FWD
Vikas Bhavan Tvpm-33

Copy to;

1. TA to Director of Agriculture
2. CA to All Additional Directors of Agriculture
3. CA to JDA(VC) and JDA(AR&T)
4. CA to State Agricultural Engineer
5. Copy to implementing section with copy of DPR
6. State Finance Officer
7. PIO, FIB for publicity of scheme
8. DDA(Planning)
9. Accounts Section
10. IT Cell – is requested to publish in website of Department.
11. Stock File

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Annexure- I

I. SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE FOR VEGETABLE

Kanjikuzhy Special Agricultural Zone

Sl. No	Components	Amount in Lakhs	Name of Section
1.	Purchase of need based machineries for karshika karmasenas	24.00	TG
2.	Construction of permanent panthal	27.00	TG
3.	Tail pond construction/ repairing	0.78	TG
	TOTAL	51.78	

Devikulam Special Agricultural Zone

Sl. No	Components	Amount in Lakhs	Name of Section
1.	Establishment of Agro Pharmacy at Vattavada/ Kanthallur	6.00	OF
2.	Establishment of plant health clinics at Munnar/ Devikulam/Marayur	5.00	TD
3.	Agro Service Centres (At Vattavada and Kanthallur)	34.70	TV(1)
4.	Demonstration of live fencing with honey bees (25 box/unit)@75% subsidy	11.25	TD
5.	Carrot and Beet root cleaning washing and packing machine	12.00	TG
6.	Steam Distillation Unit for Lemon grass	7.50	TG
	TOTAL	76.45	

Chittur Special Agricultural Zone

Sl. No	Components	Amount in Lakhs	Name of Section
1.	Crop health clinics	10.00	TD
2.	Formation of farmer producer organizations at Nenmara	61.24	VC
	TOTAL	71.24	

Pazhayannur Special Agricultural Zone

Sl. No	Components	Amount in Lakhs	Name of Section
1.	Farm mechanization (Purchase of sprayers, dusters, weed cutters, mini tractors, wheel barrow etc) for groups	15.00	TG
2.	Packing, labeling and retail marketing of vegetables	5.00	TM
	TOTAL	20	

II. SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL ZONE FOR BANANA

Sl. No	Components	Amount in Lakhs	Name of Section
1	Pack house (for group of banana growers)	7.00	TM
2	Additional assistance for promotion of group activities like propping, covering of bunches etc for getting quality produce (Rs.20000/ha)	10.00	VC
3	Laying out demonstration plots 0.4 ha size (Rs.20000/plot)	1.00	VC
4	Awareness and skill development programmes	0.25	VC
5	Infrastructure facilities for post harvest management and marketing	2.00	VC
6	Documentation including DVD production	0.50	VC
7	Market promotion to exploit the potential of GI registration at domestic and international levels	1.25	VC
	TOTAL	22	