

TF(2)15827/18

Office of the Director
Agriculture Development &
Farmers Welfare Department
Thiruvananthapuram
Date:20/04/2018

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2018-19-Scheme on Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices 2018-19 - Project on Good Agricultural Practices based cultivation in Kuttanad Special Agricultural Zone - Administrative Sanction accorded from -Working Instruction issued – reg.

Ref:- 1) GO.MS No. 136/2017/AD Dated 27/10/2017
2) Annual Plan 2018-19
3) Order No. TP(2) 7459/2018 Dated 16.04.2018 of Director of Agriculture

As per Govt. order cited (1) above administrative sanction had been accorded by Govt. of Kerala to implement the captioned scheme “**Good Agricultural Practices based cultivation in Kuttanad Special Agricultural Zone**” during the financial year 2017-18. As per ref (3) cited, continuous administrative sanction has been accorded for the scheme on Organic Farming and Good Agricultural Practices during 2018-19 for an amount of Rs. 805 Lakhs, out of the total budget provision of Rs. 1011 Lakhs for the scheme under the Head of Account **2401-00-105-85 Plan**, which includes the component “Good Agricultural Practices based cultivation in Kuttanad Special Agricultural Zone” for an amount of Rs.100.00 Lakhs (Rupees One Hundred Lakhs Only). Hence the Working Instruction are issued for implementation of the component for Rs.100.00 Lakhs (Rupees One Hundred Lakhs Only).

The Kuttanad wetland system, inclusive of the Vembanad Lake has gained Global attention because nature is at the peak of its beauty in this *Ramsar* site. The Wetland system comprising of 32 Panchayaths of Alappuzha

district, 27 Panchayaths of Kottayam district and 5 Panchyaths of Pathanamthitta district is a predominantly Agricultural belt of Kerala where people are dependent on farming and allied sectors like Fishing, Animal Husbandry etc for their livelihood.

The scheme is being implemented in an area of **27750 Ha** as detailed below.

Sl.No.	Name of District	Area covered (Ha)
1	Alappuzha	25000 Ha
2	Kottayam	2000 Ha
3	Pathanamthitta	750 Ha
Total		27750 Ha

The region is now recognized as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organizations (FAO).

The traditional Farming practices developed and practiced for long by our traditional farmers that ensured conservation of its rich Biodiversity endowments is considered as most relevant in the period of Global Warming and Sea level rise owing to its climate resilience and adaptive significance. The unique feature of this region is the below sea level rice cultivation site, the only such system in India. Farmers of Kuttanad have developed and mastered the spectacular technique of below sea level cultivation over 150 years ago. They made this system unique as it contributes remarkably well to the conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services including several livelihood Services for local communities.

Farming in Kuttanad is becoming less lucrative and young entrepreneurs are not investing much in the Agri-Business sector of Kuttanad. The changing social and demographic situation has resulted in making the cost of production escalating every year. Invasive pest and diseases menace of

weedy rice etc are making the life of Kuttanad rice farmer more distressful. Moreover, there are several public health issues pointed out by various agencies about the possible ill effects of indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which could ultimately pollute the *ramsar* in a multifaceted manner. In this situation Govt. of Kerala under Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare is implementing this new Project from 2017-18 onwards with the following objectives.

Objectives

- Development of Kuttanad region as a Special Agricultural Zone .
- Development of Location specific Agripreneurship across Kuttanad
- Sustaining the productivity of Kuttanad Farm Lands
- Incorporation of Ecological engineering concepts in cultural operations associated with rice cultivation in a location specific manner
- To reduce the load of Chemicals and Pesticides in the soil and water of Kuttanad
- To find pro-active methodology in defending the farmers from sporadic spread of invasive pest and diseases that causes heavy loss to them
- Strengthening the surveillance system of pest management through automation
- Defining strategies to save the farmers from the menace of invasive weeds , water weeds , wild rice etc in the years to come.
- Ensuring safety and quality of produce in the food chain.
- Capturing new market advantages by modifying supply chain governance
- To protect and conserve the fragile ecosystem of Kuttanad
- Conservation of biodiversity of Kuttanad including the animal life and indigenous water fauna
- Finding International Market for Farm produce of Kuttanad

- Assuring regular income of farming community by linking farming with other industries like Farm tourism.
- Ensuring the health of people of Kuttanad
- Assuring Safe to Eat food to the people throughout the State

Programme

1. Declaration of Kuttanad as Special Agricultural Zone.

The Kuttanad area comprising of three districts will be identified and special programmes will be implemented in this region for the overall development of the area in a holistic manner. Production process of major crops will be modified to suit the region. Wide publicity among the farmers will be done in the initial year for integrating the activities towards the achievement of the goals envisaged by formation of a Special Agricultural Zone. The cultural practices to be adopted will be based on the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

There will be integration of allied fields for sustainable income to farmers like Aquaculture and Poultry for increasing productivity from the field.

A sum of **Rs.1.50 lakhs** (Rupees One Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) has been set apart for the works associated with orientation and launching of the projects.

2. Demonstration Plots

Demonstration plots will be established in prominent places with the consent of farmers under the frequent monitoring of the Krishi Bhavan level Agricultural Officers. Productivity enhancement and sustainability oriented techniques will be demonstrated in these fields. All the demonstration plots will be monitored in favour of the health of plant - pest defender dynamics, quality of grains and final yields. The field identified will be the same throughout the project period.

15 such Demonstration plots will be there and providing assistance @ Rs.10000 per demonstration plots having 1 ha area.

A total sum of **Rs.1.50 lakhs** (Rupees One Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) has been set apart for implementing this component.

3.Ecological Engineering Aspects

Ecological engineering will be incorporated as a mandatory cultural operation and farmers will be supported by giving them financial assistance and technical support for adopting Ecological Engineering Principles for safer and Greener Kuttanad. The outer boundary of all the Padashekharams will be planted with ecological engineering plants like Marigold to attract pollinators and to ward off invasive pests. Other ecological manipulations will be adopted to prevent any further sporadic pest or diseases .

Assistance will be there for both inputs and operations. Project based plots popularising ecological engineering practices will be provided with assistance to the tune of Rs.0.50 lakhs per block.

A total sum of **Rs.1.50 lakhs** (Rupees One Lakh fifty thousand Only) has been set apart for implementing 3 such blocks.

4.Farmers level Training programmes for technology transfer and onfarm production of Bio control agents

For equipping farmers on principles and production of Bio control agents they will be exposed to enough training programmes in relevant areas like onfarm production of Bio control agents like VAM, Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Trichocards etc depending upon requirements. The farmers will be made aware of Ecological Engineering concepts and Ecological

management principles with hands on practice. 100 such training programmes will be there providing assistance of Rs.3000 per training.

A total sum of **Rs.3.00 lakhs** (Rupees Three Lakhs Only) is set apart for implementing this component.

5.Strategy for management of Weedy Rice and Weed Management

A strategy will be formulated for management of weedy rice on Padashekharam basis. A package of weed management practices will be done under the leadership of padashekhara samithis with guidelines from Krishi Bhavans and technical support from Kerala Agricultural University. Assistance will be given to individual farmers for making the field free of wild rice.

There are certain cultural practices which are not repetitive such as land levelling using *Lacer Levellor* during summer season, providing outer drainage channels to ward off soil toxic elements, use of *Chisel Plough* for breaking the hard pan formed due to continuous use of heavy machines like *Combined Harvester*. Innovative use of machineries will also give heavily subsidized such as Transplanting Machines, Mechanical Weeders, Weed Wipers, Low Volume /Ultra low Volume Sprayers, Indigenous/Innovative pest management Gadgets, etc.

With the implementation of GAP and wider usage the farmers will be able to sustain these operations by themselves and hence no more subsidy from Fourth year onwards. Assistance will be provided @ Rs.10,000 /Ha for 520 Ha.

There is a total provision of **Rs.52 lakhs** (Rupees Fifty Two Lakhs Only) for implementing this component.

6.Intervention in Kari Soils of Kuttanad

Kari soils of Kuttanad lies 0.5m below MSL in western portions and upto 6 m above MSL in eastern portions. The area lies at the northern side

of Thaneermukkom barrage ,so the risk of saline water intrusion is the highest here in summer. High content of Organic Carbon in this soil imparts the characteristic black colour to the soil. The presence of Partial decay or putrified logs of wood (Peat) is high in this zone. Other characteristic features are heavy texture, poor aeration ,bad drainage and low content of available nutrients. The soil and water are highly acidic. There is accumulation of sulphur compound, which on microbial action is converted to sulphuric acid. Due to acidity, toxic compounds of Iron ,Aluminium and Manganese are released and they accumulate in toxic proportions in these soils. Because of this inherent nature of the soil the farmers are facing many hassles in production of quality rice every year. Intervention to minimise the loss of production and productivity is a key issue that we address here. There will be demonstration fields in 100 ha in the initial year to demonstrate the technical know-how for curtailing the inherent character that remains as a hindrance in production enhancement efforts. An assistance @ Rs 20,000 /Ha will be provided for such demonstration plots and farmers will be advised to follow such practices based on the merits of such location specific trials in an area of 125 ha.

There is a total provision of **Rs.25.00 lakhs** (Rupees Fifty Five Lakhs Only) for implementing this component.

7. Production and Popularisation of Bio inputs through PBS Alappuzha in collaboration with KCPM

The Bio inputs necessary for implementation of GAP will be produced at farm level in technical collaboration with suitable research institution and providing training to SHGs like Kudumbasree units. These groups will have freedom to make the products at their convenience. Technical Collaboration will continue till the units attain sustainability. The quality assurance, production and distribution will be monitored by Kerala Centre for

Pest Management (KCPM). There will be a Buy -Back arrangement for production of bio-inputs like Trichocards to the padashekharams, so that the consumption of pesticides will be minimised. Initially three groups will be selected and funded for a continuous period of 2 years, until the units attain sustenance. A revolving fund for working capital also will be provided.

A total sum of **Rs.1.00 lakhs** has been set apart towards implementing this component. The physical target will be assigned as total 5 units. An amount of Rs.20000 will be provided for each unit.

8.Popularization of Seed Drums for Karmasena / padashekharams / Thozhilsena:-

Seed drums and machine transplanting for ideal crop stands will be used for the benefit of farmers to render improved plant health, reduced pest populations and weed management. 75% subsidy can be given to Padashekharams for purchase of Seed Drums from RAIDCO Kerala. 100 drums will be purchased with an assistance rate of Rs.4800/Drum.

A total sum of **Rs 0.72 lakhs** has been provided for implementing this component.

9.One time Grant for SHGs /Karmasena towards Production units of Bio Inputs:-

There is provision for providing one time grant to SHGs /Karmasena etc towards establishing production units for Bio inputs/Bio pesticides. There is an assistance of Rs.1.5 lakhs (Rupees One Lakh and Five thousand Only) as one time grant per unit.

A sum of **Rs.3.00 lakhs** (Rupees Three Lakhs Only) has been set apart for 2 such Production units.

10. Market Intervention, Value addition and GAP certification

There will be assured markets for the farm produces from this region. The farmers are free to register in such markets for the sale of their produce at competitive rates. The rice produced in Kuttanad region will be procured, the product stored, Processed and marketed as Value Added Products with Regional tags extending product Subsidy.

A sum of **Rs. 6.00 lakhs** is provided exclusively for this component.

This component is to be implemented by preparing separate projects and with the approval of Apex body.

11. Administrative charges including Office expenses, Stationary etc

Provision has been set apart for meeting expenses in connection with administrative charges with respect to the implementation of this project. The Administrative expenses will cover the expenses towards stationary, TA, POL, refreshment charges including TA for Samithi members, documentation etc.

A total amount of **Rs.1.28 lakhs** has been set apart for this component.

12. Management of Other Aquatic weeds ,Taxi, Boat-hire charges etc:-

All expenses towards management of other aquatic weeds will be met from this provision. There is also provision for meeting other expenses incurred towards taxi, Boat-hire charges etc .

A total sum of **Rs.2.50 lakhs** has been earmarked for this component.

13.Contingency expenses including Mandatory Insurance Coverage, Hire charges etc

Insurance coverage will be mandatory and compensation packages for this region will be based on the norms of Crop Insurance Packages. For paddy padashekhara samithis are required to insure their fields as a group .

A total of **Rs.1.00 lakhs** has been earmarked for meeting the contingency expenses.

GAP based cultivation in Kuttanad special Agricultural Zone

Financial Outlay 2017-18

An abstract of Financial outlay is given below.

Sl No	Particulars	Physical Target	Amount in lakhs
1	Orientation and launching of the project		1.50
2	Assistance for 15 Demonstrations plot (assistance @ Rs.10000/ha/1demonstration one ha)	15 nos.	1.50
3	Assistance for popularizing Ecological Engineering (50% subsidy) both for inputs and operations – project based assistance for 3 blocks(Rs.0.50 Lakh per block)	3 Blocks	1.5
4	Farmers level training programmes for technology transfer like on farm production of biocontrol agents, VAM and concept like ecological management etc. (assistance @ Rs.3000/training)	100	3.00
5	Weedy rice management (assistance to compensate the expenses to padasekarams for implementing scientific management practices	520 Ha	52.00

	collectively (asistance @ 10000/ha)		
6	Management of Kari soil for productivity enhancement -a holistic approach – in technical collaboration with KAU (assistance @Rs.20000/ha)	125 Ha	25. 00
7	Production and Popularization of bio inputs like Trichocards at Parasite Breeding Station Alappuzha in collaboration with KCPM		1.00
8	Purchase of Seed Drum for Karmasena / Prospective Padasekharams / Thozhilsena etc (@ Rs.4800 /Drums)	15	0.72
9	One time grant for SHGs / Karmasena etc for establishing production units of Bio inputs /Bio pesticides. (2 units @ 1.5 lakhs per unit)	2 units	3.00
11	Market intervention-Value addition,Gap certified product subsidy etc.		6.00
12	Administrative charges such as Office expenses , Stationary ,TA ,POL ,Refreshment charges ,TA for Samithi members , Documentation etc		1.28
13	Management of Aquatic weeds, Taxi, Boat-hire charges etc		2.50
14	Contingency Expenses including hire charges, Insurance premium to GAP farmers etc.		1.00
	Total		100.00

Rs. 100.00 Lakhs /- (Rs One Hundred Lakhs Only)

Financial Outlay

An amount of **Rs. 100.00 Lakhs** /- (**Rs One Hundred Lakhs Only**) has been earmarked for the implementing above said activities. The expenditure will be debited from the **H/A 2401-00-105-85 (Plan)**.

The district wise details of the activities of the scheme **Good Agricultural Practices based cultivation in Kuttanad Special Agricultural Zone** is attached in Annexure I.

Activities to be implemented for GAP certification and check list of compliance of GAP standards etc are included as Appendix (I) & (II) respectively.

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 2018 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 components. 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.

Mode of Implementation and Monitoring

The Project will be implemented by an apex body headed by the Principal Agricultural Officer Alappuzha and will be coordinated by Principal Agricultural Officer Alappuzha. Principal Agricultural Officers of Pathanamthitta and Kottayam will also be the members of the body. The chairman of the body will be selected by the Ministry of Agriculture. 7 members from prominent padasekhara committees like samyukthapadasekharasamethies can be nominated to the committee. Deputy Director of Agriculture (NWDPR) from each of these three districts will also be members. There will be 9 representatives from major Padasekhra Samithis and prominent SHGs and

through them the two-way communication will happen regarding the implementation of this Project. The Principal Agricultural Officer Alappuzha will streamline the activities on a phased manner and the progress will be communicated to this office in the prescribed proforma Annexure (II). Principal Agricultural Officer, Alappuzha should submit utilization for the amount allotted for the scheme immediately after the completion of the programme.

At District level concerned Principal Agricultural Officers will monitor and evaluate the progress of implementation of Scheme. The scheme will be supervised by Assistant Director of Agriculture (M) and Deputy Director of Agriculture (NWDPR).

At State level the scheme implementation will be monitored by Organic Farming Cell, Joint Director of Agriculture (PP) and Additional Director of Agriculture (M).

The Principal Agricultural Officer, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta & Kottayam should take immediate action to assign block level targets and also direct the Assistant Directors of Agriculture to assign Krishi Bhavan wise targets. The consolidated Krishi Bhavan and Block level targets should be communicated in the name of Additional Director of Agriculture (M) on or before 27th April 2018.


Sd/-

Director (i/c)

Agriculture Development & Farmers Welfare Department

Copy to:

- (1) All Additional Directors of Agriculture
- (2) All Principal Agricultural Officers
- (3) All Assistant Directors of Agriculture
- (4) CA to DA
- (5) IT website


JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (PP)
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE
VIKAS BHAVAN, TRIVANDRUM.

Annexure-1

The district wise breakup for the activities under
GAP based cultivation in Kuttanad special Agricultural Zone

Sl.No.	Components	Alappuzha		Kottayam		Pathanamthitta		Grand Total	
		Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)
		Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
1	Orientation and launching of the project		1.50						1.50
2	Assistance for 15 Demonstrations plot (assistance @ Rs.10000/ha/1demonstration one ha)	7	0.70	5	0.50	3	0.3	15	1.50
3	Assistance for popularizing Ecological Engineering(50% subsidy) both for inputs and operations – project based assistance for 3 block (Rs.0.50 Lakh per block)	1	0.50	1	0.50	1	0.50	3	1.50
4	Farmers level training programmes for technology transfer like on farm production of biocontrol agents, VAM and concept like ecological management etc. (assistance @ Rs.3000/training)	50	1.50	30	0.90	20	0.60	100	3.00
5	Weedy rice management (assistance to compensate the expenses to padasekarams for implementing scientific management practices collectively (assistance @ 10000/ha)	300 Ha	30.00	120 Ha	12.00	100 Ha	10.00	520 Ha	52.00
6	Management of Kari soil for productivity enhancement -a holistic approach – in technical collaboration with KAU(assistance @Rs.20000/ha)	100 Ha	20.00	25 Ha	5.00			125 Ha	25.00

Sl. No.	Districts	Alappuzha		Kottayam		Pathanamthitta		Grand Total	
	Components	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)	Physical	Financial (in lakhs)
		Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
7	Production and Popularization of bio inputs like Trichocards at Parasite Breeding Station Alappuzha in collaboration with KCPM	3	0.60	1	0.20	1	0.20		1.00
8	Purchase of Seed Drum for Karshika Karma sena/potential padasekharam/ thozhilsena etc. (@RS.4800/drums)	7	0.34	5	0.24	3	0.14	15	0.72
9	One time grant for SHGs/karshika karmasenas etc for establishing production units of bio inputs / bio pesticides(@ Rs.1.5 lakhs /units)	1	1.50	0	0.00	1	1.5	2	3.00
10	Market intervention-Value addition, Gap certified product subsidy etc		2.00		2.00		2.00		6.00
11	Administrative charges (Office expenses, stationery charges, TA, POL, refreshment charges, TA for samithy members, documentation etc.		0.65		0.40		0.23		1.28
12	Management of Aquatic weeds, Taxi, Boat hire charges etc		1.50		1.00				2.50
13	Contingency Expenses including hire charges ,crop insurance premium to GAP farmers		0.50		0.25		0.25		1.00
Grand Total			61.29		22.99		15.72		100.00

(One Hundred Lakhs Only)

JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE