

TQ (2) 30360 /18

Directorate of Agriculture Development
and Farmers' Welfare Department
Thiruvananthapuram. Date: 3/08/ 2018

CIRCULAR

Sub: Annual Plan-2018-19 - Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories - Enforcement of Quality Control of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides through Quality Control Enforcement Wing - Working Instructions Issued -Reg.

Ref: G.O (Rt) No. 624/2018/Agri Dated: 27. 06. 2018.

Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are the primary inputs in agricultural production. Government of India have enacted various Acts, Rules and Orders to regulate the production, movement, distribution and quality of these inputs. The Seed Act, 1966, The Seed Rules, 1968 and The Seed (Control) Order, 1983 framed by the Central Government provides the platform for regulating the quality of seed of any kind or variety to be sold for the purposes of use in agriculture. The Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985 and The Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 framed by the Central Government under Section 10 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provide the regulatory mechanism on the import, manufacture, movement, distribution / sale and quality control of fertilizers all over India. Regulations on the import, manufacture, distribution / sale and quality control of pesticides are laid out through the Insecticides Act 1968 and the Insecticides Rules 1971.

The Quality Control Enforcement Wing under the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare is responsible for enforcing all the statutory regulations including Certification, Registration, Licensing, Movement and Quality Control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. All the activities initiated during 2016-17 on a campaign mode and continued during 2017-18 for streamlining the enforcement activities in the certification, registration, licensing and quality control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides shall be continued during 2018-19 under the Quality Control Enforcement Wing. Apart from this, as per the Government Order referred above, administrative sanction has been accorded for the implementation of the Scheme on Enforcement of Quality Control of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides through Quality Control Enforcement Wing under the Modernization of Departmental Laboratories with a total financial outlay of Rs. 115.00 lakh. Different programmes as shown below are envisaged under the Annual Plan 2018-19.

Director of Agriculture shall be vested with the flexibility for implementation of the various components on priority / need based manner.

1. Drawal of Statutory Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control (Rs. 16.00 Lakh)

Sample analysis of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides assumes importance as it provides an array of regulatory measures in assuring the quality in production, movement, distribution and consumption of these inputs in crop production.

Drawal of Seed Samples

The annual analysing capacity of seed samples in the State Seed Testing Laboratory, Alappuzha and Seed Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram is 3000 and 1000 samples respectively. All the Block level Assistant Directors of Agriculture, designated as Seed Inspector, have to draw samples of seeds and send the same in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to the Seed Testing Laboratory to ensure that the seed sample conforms to minimum seed certification standards. Seeds produced locally and meant for sale or export and the imported seeds can be drawn for quality analysis. Seeds produced under the Registered Seed Growers Programme are also to be drawn by the Assistant Directors of Agriculture and send for quality analysis.

Drawal of Fertilizer Samples

At present, we have the potential for analyzing about 5000 fertilizer samples annually through the two Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) at Thiruvananthapuram and Pattambi. It is required to fully utilize the potential of both the laboratories for enhancing the quality control of fertilizers. Fertilizer Inspectors have to draw statutory samples such that all the fertilizer depots within the Krishibhavan are covered. 70 percent of the samples drawn should be of physical mixtures of fertilizers. Samples from Thiruvananthapuram Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, and Ernakulam districts are to be sent to FQCL Thiruvananthapuram and those from Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod to FQCL Pattambi. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should primarily focus on manufacturing and distribution / wholesale units. They should also draw samples of micro-nutrients for analysis at the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (FQCL), Thiruvananthapuram.

The new Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) set up at Pattambi in Palakkad District shall be commissioned during 2018-19. Target for drawal of samples of organic manures and bio-fertilizers by the Fertilizer Inspectors shall be assigned separately upon commissioning of the laboratory. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should draw and send the samples to RCOF Bangalore until the commissioning of the Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) at Pattambi. Apart from the statutory samples as above, some fraction of the analysing capacity of the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) is earmarked for samples brought directly by farmers. **However, the results of such tests shall not be the basis of initiating legal action.**

Department of Fertilizer, GoI have now made it mandatory to submit the Quality Certificate (B2 Certificate) for releasing fertilizer subsidy on central allocation to the distributing firms. It is also required to upload this certificate in the Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) website, on a regular basis. As such, quality inspection, sampling and sample analysis have to be performed for each batch / lot of fertilizer arriving in every district in the State. Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC) in charge of the district shall be responsible for performing this activity and the number of samples under this programme shall be over and above the target stated above. Further, the target given for seed sample analysis does not include Registered Seed Growers Programme.

Drawal of Pesticide Samples

The annual analysing capacity of pesticide samples in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory is 2500 and this potential needs to be fully utilized. Insecticides Inspectors have to draw statutory samples such that all the pesticides depots within the Krishibhavan are covered. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should primarily focus on manufacturing and distribution / wholesale units. They are also required to draw samples of bio-control agents and send it to RCOF Bangalore for quality analysis. Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) should ensure that the mandatory visits in all manufacturing units and all establishments selling the insecticides are carried out as per provisions of the Insecticides Rules, 1971 and the standing instructions of the Director of Agriculture on Government directives.

Under the Annual Plan 2018-19, Rs. 16.00 lakh has been earmarked under Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-Plan for meeting the expenditure on drawal of samples of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for quality analysis. It can be utilized for all related expenses on quality control, which

may include cost of sample, cost towards containers, cloth bags, despatch of samples etc. and other miscellaneous items.

The District -wise target for Drawal of Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control is provided in the Table below:

**District-wise Physical and Financial Target on
Drawal of Statutory Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control**

District	Financial Target (Lakh Rs)	Physical Target of Samples							
		Fertilizers	Micro Nutrients	Organic Manures	Bio-Fertilizers	Pesticides	Bio-Control Agents	Seeds	
								Paddy Seeds	Veg. Seeds
Thiruvananthapuram	1.85	310				170		20	30
Thiruvananthapuram -ADA (QC)		260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kollam	0.85	290				120		20	20
Pathanamthitta	0.62	190				70		20	20
Alappuzha		290				170		45	30
Alappuzha - ADA (QC)		260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kottayam	0.98	290				170		20	20
Idukki	0.69	190				100		20	20
Ernakulam	1.02	320				170		35	20
Thrissur		360				180		45	30
Thrissur - ADA (QC)		260	25	15	15	160	15		
Palakkad	1.20	370				170		80	30
Malappuram	1.20	370				175		40	30
Kozhikode		350				170		20	20
Kozhikode -- ADA (QC)		260	25	15	15	160	15		
Wayanad	0.52	100				65		20	20

Kannur	0.99	350				100		20	30
Kasargodu	0.53	80				30		20	30
TOTAL	16.00	4900	100	60	60	2500	60	425	350

Quality control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is one of the major services of the Agriculture Department rendered to the farming community and implementation of this programme ultimately envisages to ensure economic benefit to the farming community. Hence quality analysis of samples should always be collaborated with the ensuing cropping seasons. Drawal and analysis of samples should be carried out as a continuing programme without awaiting for the administrative sanction / working instruction of the Annual Plan Scheme in future, based on the physical target in the preceeding year. 70% of the sample analysis of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is to be completed during the period from April to October commensurating with the virippu and mundakan seasons and 30% during the puncha season every year and there are standing instructions to follow this.

Principal Agricultural Officers should ensure that the targets given as above are achieved in full and in time. The monthly progress report on the implementation of the programme on Drawal of Samples for Quality Control should be submitted to the Director of Agriculture by 5th of every month in the proforma specified.

2. Surveillance on Organic Protectants / Bio-Pesticides in the market (Rs. 4.00 lakh)

There is growing concern about the integrity of many bio-pesticides (botanical / organic / biological origin) and growth promoters sold throughout Kerala under various proprietary names. Most of these products branded as plant metabolites or botanical origin are not properly labelled regarding its active ingredients or actual composition. At present, our State has no laboratory facilities to undertake such comprehensive analysis to identify the presence of any contaminants or chemical pesticides in these organic products. NIPHM Hyderabad has consented to analyse such products in their laboratory as per our requirement to exclude the chances of contamination in such products by any ingredient of chemical nature or by chemical pesticides. This analysis shall incur a cost of about Rs. 10000/- or Rs. 20000 /- per sample depending on the methodology for analysis.

During 2016-17, Insecticide Inspectors all over the State have prepared an inventory of such products available in the market. During the current year, samples of selected products from this inventory shall be procured and sent for analysis at NIPHM Laboratory. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) shall be primarily responsible for collecting and sending the samples for analysis.

Other Insecticide Inspectors in the districts can also send such samples after obtaining sanction from the Deputy Director of Agriculture (E&T).

It should be ensured that *such samples are collected from sellers only and on cash purchase with proper documentation of purchase*. An amount of Rs. 4.00 Lakh is earmarked for this programme during 2018-19, for need based allocation for meeting the cost of samples and other miscellaneous expenses as follows.

Physical and Financial Target on Surveillance on Organic Protectants / Bio-Pesticides in the market

No	District	Physical Target	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Thiruvananthapuram Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam	7	1.10
2	Alappuzha, Idukki, and Ernakulam	6	0.90
3	Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram	6	0.90
4	Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod	7	1.10
	Total	26	4.00

3. Mass Awareness Programmes and Special Campaign Week (Rs. 27. 00 lakh)

It is required to continue the efforts in creating increased awareness among farmers, input dealers and public at large on the need for scientific use of fertilizers and pesticides. A number of initiatives such as mass media advertisement, conduct of seminars, conduct of training programmes etc carried out during 2016-17 and 2017-18 shall be continued in 2018-19 also. Special campaign / awareness week shall be organized throughout the State in the cropping season. During this period, mass awareness programmes shall be conducted in every block aimed at creating awareness on Soil fertility / Soil Health Card based fertilizer application, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Plant Protection Practices (GPP), New generation & Organic / bio-pesticides, health hazards of indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides etc. This campaign should be conducted ensuring the full co-operation of all fertilizer / pesticide / seed dealers and other stakeholders.

Block Level Assistant Directors of Agriculture shall co-ordinate the entire activities of the **Special Campaign Week** and they will be at their discretion to plan and organize the programmes in the most befitting manner ensuring maximum public participation, involvement of all stakeholders, maximum awareness creation, etc. for achieving the aims described above. Principal Agricultural Officers shall allocate funds to the Assistant Directors of Agriculture proportionate to the number of Krishibhavans under each block not exceeding Rs.2500.00 per Krishibhavan. An amount of Rs. 27.00 lakh is earmarked for these programmes. Rs. 26.90 lakh will be allotted to districts as stated below. An amount of Rs. 0.10 Lakh will be retained at HQ for need based further allotment.

**District-wise Financial Target on Mass Awareness Programmes
and Special Campaign Week**

No	District	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Thiruvanantha-puram	2.225000
2	Kollam	1.95000
3	Pathanamthitta	1.42500
4	Alappuzha	1.95000
5	Kottayam	1.97500
6	Idukki	1.32500
7	Ernakulam	2.42500
8	Thrissur	2.62500
9	Palakkad	2.37500
10	Malappuram	2.70000
11	Kozhikode	2.02500
12	Wayanad	0.65000
13	Kannur	2.22500
14	Kasargodu	1.02500
	Total	26.9000

4. **Training and Recognition for Input Agencies (Rs. 27.00 lakh)**

Seed, Fertilizer and Pesticide dealers are integral part of the farming sector and the Department is committed to safe-guard the interests of these stakeholders. However, stringent enforcement actions initiated during 2016-17 have caused certain misunderstandings among the input dealers and this is primarily due to ignorance of the statutory provisions of the respective Acts, Rules or Orders. Regular trainings / meeting of input agencies carried out during the earlier T&V System was later ignored and nowadays trainings for input agencies are seldom conducted. It is therefore proposed that Input Dealer Meet shall be conducted in every block once in two months. Further, a workshop / seminar shall be conducted for all the input dealers in every block in each crop season, for which a financial support, not exceeding Rs. 5000.00 per workshop / seminar per crop season shall be provided. A district level seminar involving the participation of input manufacturers, distributors and dealers is also proposed to be conducted by the Principal Agricultural Officer during the year, for which a financial support not exceeding Rs. 15000.00 shall be provided.

Apart from fully bringing the input dealers under the regulatory mechanism in accordance with the Fertilizer Control Order, Insecticides Act and Seed Act, it is also important to recognize their service and commitment to the farming community. Any effort to regulate the indiscriminate use of hazardous chemicals in crop production will be successful only with the active co-operation of all associated stakeholders and the role to be performed by the input agencies on this cannot be under estimated. It is therefore proposed that the role of fertilizer/pesticide dealers under the jurisdiction of every Krishibhavan in promoting safe to eat food production should be duly recognized. Therefore each Krishibhavan will identify the most pro-active, co-operative and eco-friendly Fertilizer / Pesticide Dealer every year and they shall be felicitated along with the best farmers in the Krishibhavans.

It is also proposed that promising input dealer units shall be selected and designated as **Model Input Unit** in respect of compliance of all regulations on the stock, exhibition & sale of inputs, farmer supportive attitude, maintaining of all records and registers, exhibition of stock & price details, exhibition of details on restricted / new generation pesticides / bio-pesticides, making available of leaflets and other publications on the scientific use of inputs, promotion of organic inputs, prompt use of PoS machines etc. There will be such 18 model input units during 2018-19 with a minimum of one unit in every district. A financial support of Rs. 15000/- shall be provided to the selected dealer.

Apart from these, training programmes shall also be conducted for input dealers through RATTCS / FTCs aimed at creating awareness and imparting knowledge on all regulatory compliance on aspects of production, movement, distribution and sale of inputs.

The financial provisions for implementing the different programmes for Training and Recognition for Input Agencies shall be summarized as follows:

**District-wise Target on Mass Training and Recognition for Input Agencies
(Amount in Lakh Rs)**

District	Workshop		District Seminar		Model Input Units		Total Amount
	No	Amount	No	Amount	No	Amount	
Thiruvananthapuram	22	1.10	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.40
Kollam	22	1.10	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.40
Pathanamthitta	16	0.80	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.10
Alappuzha	24	1.20	1	0.15	2	0.30	1.65
Kottayam	22	1.10	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.40
Idukki	16	0.80	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.10
Ernakulam	28	1.40	1	0.15	2	0.30	1.85
Thrissur	32	1.60	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.90
Palakkad	26	1.30	1	0.15	2	0.30	1.75
Malappuram	30	1.50	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.80
Kozhikode	24	1.20	1	0.15	2	0.30	1.65
Wayanad	8	0.40	1	0.15	1	0.15	0.70
Kannur	22	1.10	1	0.15	1	0.15	1.40
Kasargodu	12	0.60	1	0.15	1	0.15	0.90
Total	304	15.20	14	2.10	18	2.70	20.00

5. Empowering Seed / Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors, Conduct of Workshop, Publication of Handbook etc (Rs. 7.00 lakh)

There is a need for empowering Department Officers to make them competent in the statutory provisions of the relevant acts, rules and orders to function as Seed / Fertilizer /

Insecticide Inspectors. Hence, it is proposed that a Key Resource Group (KRG) / Master Trainers Group (MTG), competent in all aspects of the relevant Acts shall be developed by selecting suitable Officers and deputing them to national level accredited training institutes such as NIPHM for special trainings or to organize such trainings by SAMETI with the participation of expert faculties. Further, a series of training programmes shall also be organized at SAMETI, RATTCS and FTCs for the Seed / Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors and other officers. Enforcement Handbooks shall be developed by the State Enforcement Cell and publications incorporating the new amendments on Insecticides Act & Insecticides Rules, Fertilizer Control Order, Seed Act, etc. may also be made available to the Enforcement Officers. An amount of Rs. 7.00 lakh is earmarked for meeting the related expenditure and it will be allocated on need basis.

6. Standardization of Organic Products / Organic Protectants / Organic Pesticides by KAU (Rs 25.00 Lakh)

For promoting the production and marketing of pesticide free and safe to eat fruits and vegetables, there is a need for standardisation of all organic inputs marketed in the State. As per provisions of the FCO, only few organic products are defined with precise specifications. Hence, indigenous and other products which are currently beyond the scope of the FCO etc need to be standardized on aspects of required composition, presence of toxic elements and phyto toxic compounds, proper labelling etc. Further, other than microbial bio-pesticides, only a few organic products are currently included under the Insecticides Act 1968 with proper specifications. Despite this, a large number of non-standardised organic products are now available in the market labelled as Organic Protectants / Organic Pesticides or in other proprietary names. Hence it is required to standardize such products to ensure that only quality organic inputs are made available to farmers.

It is proposed that Kerala Agricultural University shall be entrusted to standardize the various Organic inputs that could be made available to farmers, for enabling quality control. This should be undertaken on a project mode for 3 years and an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh is needed during 2018-19. An amount of Rs. 25.00 Lakh is now earmarked under this; and additional fund shall be sourced through re-appropriation.

7. Expert Committee on Quality Assurance and Enforcement (3.00 lakh)

It is proposed to constitute an Expert Group on Quality Assurance & Enforcement with Director of Agriculture as convenor. This expert committee shall be responsible for periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the quality assurance and enforcement activities and to recommend

new strategies. Meetings & Workshops shall be conducted to this effect. Apart from this, the committee constituted vide G.O. (Rt) No. 1031/02/AD dated: 02.09.2002 for evaluation of organic products shall be re-constituted and the Terms of Reference (ToR) will be modified to establish a regular system for granting approval of standardised organic inputs (fertilizers and pesticides) in the State. An amount of Rs. 3.00 Lakh is earmarked for related expenses including Honorarium, Travel expenses and related expenses.

8. Developing Web Portal for On-Line Management of Certification, Registration and Licensing of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides. (Rs. 10.00 Lakh)

A web portal facilitating an On-line Management System shall enable fast tracking all the processes of Quality Enforcement of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides by the State Enforcement Wing. The web portal shall facilitate a Database / Registry of Certification, Registration and Licensing of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides updated on a regular basis. This will also help in monitoring the production, movement, distribution and the stock & sale position of these inputs. Further, developing an *On Line Reporting System* is important for timely and accurate reporting of stock position / availability of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc from all the districts. IT Cell at the Directorate shall formulate a programme for establishing a tailor made web portal serving the targeted functions by themselves or by suitably engaging consultants / external agencies. An amount of Rs. 10.00 Lakh is proposed under this.

9. Computer Infrastructure and other accessories and Manpower Support for the State Enforcement Cell (3.00 Lakh)

It is proposed to provide support to the Enforcement Cell at the Directorate for providing computer infrastructure of required configuration to facilitate the On-line Management System and FQCS web portal. Accessories may include other facilities such as multi-functional printer, scanner etc.

Apart from this, during 2018-19, the State Enforcement Cell at the Directorate will be provided with the support of a Computer Technician cum Data Entry Operator, hired on Daily wages as per rules until the period the proposed manpower support is sanctioned by Government. A total provision of 3.00 Lakh is earmarked for this, of which Rs. 110000/- is earmarked for computer infrastructure and Rs. 190000/- for daily wage employment.

Necessary funds for various programmes to be implemented by the districts shall be allotted to the Principal Agricultural Officers. Rest of the fund will be operated from the HQ and will be

utilized or allotted as per the provisions specified. As such an amount of Rs. 66.90 Lakh will be allotted to districts initially and the balance of Rs. 48.10 Lakh will be retained at the HQ.

Summary of District-wise Allocation of Fund (in Lakh)

District	Drawal of Sample	Surveillance of Organic inputs	Mass Awareness	Training & Recognition for Input Agencies	Total Amount
Thiruvananthapuram	1.85	1.10	2.25000	1.4	6.575
Kollam	0.85		1.95000	1.4	4.2
Pathanamthitta	0.62		1.42500	1.10	3.145
Alappuzha	1.84	0.90	1.95000	1.65	6.34
Kottayam	0.98		1.97500	1.40	4.355
Idukki	0.69		1.32500	1.10	3.115
Ernakulam	1.02		2.42500	1.85	5.295
Thrissur	1.94	0.90	2.62500	1.90	7.365
Palakkad	1.20		2.37500	1.75	5.325
Malappuram	1.20		2.70000	1.80	5.7
Kozhikode	1.77	1.10	2.02500	1.50	6.395
Wayanad	0.52		0.65000	0.70	1.87
Kannur	0.99		2.22500	01.55	4.765
Kasargode	0.53		1.02500	0.90	2.455
Total	16.00	4.00	26.90	20.00	66.90

The expenditure towards implementation of various components of this programme shall be debited under **Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-Plan**. All rules, formalities and procedures must be strictly followed for the implementation of the programme. The norms of financial propriety shall be followed in toto. Store purchase rules should be strictly adhered to for all kinds of purchases and Tender / e-Tender formalities shall be followed wherever necessary.

Details of fund to be retained initially at the HQ are as follows:

No	Particulars	Amount in Lakh Rs
1	Mass Awareness Programmes and Special Campaign Week	0.10
2	Empowering Seed / Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors, Conduct of Workshop, Publication of Handbook etc	7.00
3	Standardization of Organic Products / Organic Protectants / Organic Pesticides by KAU	25.00
4	Expert Committee on Quality assurance and Enforcement	3.00
5	Developing Web Portal for On-Line Management of Certification, Registration and Licensing of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides	10.00
6	Computer Infrastructure and other accessories and Manpower Support for the State Enforcement Cell	3.00
	TOTAL	48.10

The Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) will be responsible for implementing the scheme in the districts. The Principal Agricultural Officer in the respective districts shall monitor the implementation of the programme. The Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor the progress of the programmes at the State level and will ensure that the implementation of the entire programme is as per the existing procedures, rules and regulations.

Sd/-

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8/8/18

Director of Agriculture

To

All Principal Agricultural Officers / Project Directors, ATMA
Deputy Director of Agriculture, IT Cell
Deputy Director of Agriculture, RATTCs, FTCs
TA, TQ, TF Sections
CA to all Additional Directors of Agriculture
Director, SAMETI with C/L
TA/CA to Director of Agriculture

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VIKAS BHAVAN TRIVANDRUM

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