

CIRCULAR

Sub: National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture -Implementation of Soil Health Management Scheme – Establishment of Mobile Soil Testing Labs at Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod- Revised Working Instructions issued - reg

- Ref: 1. Operational guidelines for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme – National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
2. GOI letter No. 1-1/2014-Fert Use VIII dated 30.12.2014
3. Circular of even no. dated 19.11.2015
4. GO (Rt.) No. 35/2016/AGRI dated 18.01.2016
5. GO (Rt.) No. 506/2018/AGRI dated 04.06.2018
6. GOI letter No. 14-23/2014-Fert Use dated 04.09.2018

Sustaining agricultural productivity depends on quality and availability of natural resources like soil and water. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture has been formulated for enhancing agricultural productivity, especially in rainfed area, focussing on water use efficiency, soil health management and synergising resource conservation.

Soil Health Management is one of the most important interventions of NMSA aiming at promoting location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management including residue management, organic farming practices by way of creating and linking soil fertility maps with macro and micro nutrient management, judicious application of fertilizers and minimising soil erosion.

Setting up of new Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories for macro and micro nutrient analysis is one of the components of Soil Health Management.

Government of India vide letter read as 2nd paper above have released an amount of Rs. 100.80 lakh for the establishment of two Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories.

As per circular cited 3rd above, in the detailed working instructions issued for the scheme, it was decided to establish these Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories one each at Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod district.

As per Government order cited 4th in reference, administrative sanction was accorded for the project proposal for Establishment of Mobile Soil Testing Labs at Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod at a project cost of Rs. 149.33 lakh, subject to the condition that the expenditure for that year for the project will be limited to the actual release of funds from Government of India plus Government of Kerala share ie., Rs. 126 lakh (Rs. 100.8 lakh + Rs. 25.2 lakh). But the scheme could not be implemented during 2015-16.

As per Government order cited 5th in reference, administrative sanction was accorded for the project proposal for Establishment of Mobile Soil Testing Labs at Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod at a project cost of Rs. 149.33 lakh, subject to the condition that the expenditure for this year for the project will be limited to the actual release of funds from Government of India plus Government of Kerala share ie., **Rs. 126 lakh (Rs. 100.8 lakh + Rs. 25.2 lakh).**

Government of India vide letter read as 6th paper above has revalidated the unspent balance of Rs. 100.80 lakh for utilisation during 2018-19 for setting up of two Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories.

Objectives:

Establishment of two Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories one each at Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod district and enabling the farmers to adopt judicious application of manures and fertilizers and to adopt best agriculture practices for getting increased production and productivity and to maintain soil health to a great extent.

Norms of Assistance:

75% of the project cost subject to a limit of Rs. 56.00 lakh will be provided as subsidy by Government of India for the purchase of customised vehicle, machinery and equipment, chemicals and glasswares, miscellaneous laboratory articles and contingencies and the remaining 25 % of the fund requirement will be met from State fund.

Components proposed:

1. Customised vehicle with Equipments:

Action has already been taken by the State Agricultural Engineer for the purchase of two customised vehicle with equipments viz., Flame photometer, Conductivity meter, pH meter, Shaking apparatus, Electronic balance, Analytical / Top loading balance, Drying oven, Computer with appropriate software, Table top centrifuge, GPS system and Portable kit for an amount of **Rs. 93.90938 lakh.**

2. Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer: Two Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometers, one for each MSTL has to be procured for which an amount of **Rs. 30 lakh** (Rs. 15 lakh per equipment) is set apart.

3. Chemicals and glasswares: Rs. 8.5 lakh

Glasswares and chemicals required for the estimation of pH, EC, major and micro nutrients are to be procured, for which an amount of **Rs. 5 lakh** and **Rs. 3.5 lakh** are set apart, respectively.

4. Miscellaneous expenses: Rs. 1.99062 lakh

Expected outcome:

Establishment of these Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories will enable the farmers to adopt judicious application of manures and fertilizers and to adopt best agricultural practices for getting increased production and productivity.

Financial outlay:

				(Rs. In lakh)	
Sl. No.	Item	Amount proposed	GoI share(75%)	GoK share (25%)	
1	Customised vehicle with equipments	93.90938	70.43204	23.47734	
2	Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer	30.00	22.50	7.50	
3	Glasswares	5.00	3.75	1.25	
4	Chemicals	3.50	2.625	0.875	
5	Miscellaneous	1.99062	1.49296	0.49766	
	TOTAL	134.4	100.8	33.6	

The total financial requirement of the programme of Rs.134.4 lakh, of which the GoI share of Rs. 100.8 lakh can be met from the budget provision under the head of account 2401-104-79 (01) Plan and the GoK share of Rs. 33.6 lakh can be met from the budget provision under the head of account 2401-00-109-65- Umbrella scheme on Krishi Unnathi Yojana from the current year's budget provision.

Mode of implementation:

The programme will be implemented during this financial year through the Chief Soil Chemist. The Chief Soil Chemist should take necessary action for the purchase of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, chemicals and glasswares required for the establishment of labs observing Stores Purchase Rules. Immediate action may be taken to initiate the implementation of the programme.

Monitoring:

At the district level, the programme will be monitored by the Principal Agricultural Officer and Deputy Director of Agriculture (E & T). At the State level, the programme will be monitored by the Additional Director of Agriculture(Planning).

Sd/-**Director of Agriculture****To:**

The Chief Soil Chemist

**RAJASREE J.****Assistant Director of Agriculture
Directorate of Agricultural Development
& Farmers Welfare, Vikas Bhavan
Thiruvananthapuram****Copy to:**

The Principal Agricultural Officers, Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod
The Assistant Soil Chemists, District Soil Testing Labs, Pathanamthitta and Kasaragod
TA to Director of Agriculture
Planning Section