

**CIRCULAR**

Sub: Annual Plan 2017-18-Scheme for Development of Location Specific Crops under Wayanad Package - working Instruction issued -reg

Ref: GO(RT) No. 1070/2017/AD Dt 30/10/25017 of Agriculture (agri) Department

As per the reference cited , administrative sanction has been accorded by the Government for the Wayanad Package with a budget provision of Rs. 1900 lakhs which included the component "Development of Location Specific Crops " for an amount of Rs. 150.00 lakhs out of this budget provision of Rs. 1900.00 , under the Head of account 2401-00-800-27 plan .

The following components are proposed as part of the scheme 'Development of location specific crops.

1. Assistance for cultivation and conservation of traditionally grown varieties of crops.
2. Supply of planting materials of cool season vegetables
3. Area expansion through supply of fruit plants including high-value fruit crops.
4. Promotion of cultivation of tuber crops
5. Supply of tuber seed kits to SC/ST farmers
6. Support for Mushroom Cultivation
7. Supply of Pulse Seed Kits

**1. Assistance for cultivation of traditionally grown varieties of crops  
(25 lakhs)**

Wayanad is a basket of traditional varieties of paddy, spices and tuber crops. There are certain farmers who willingly cultivate such varieties with the intention of conserving these germplasm and also to pass the traditional knowledge and health benefits derived from them to new generation. Paddy crop alone has around 40 such varieties in this district. These include varieties like veliyān and thondi which stand out both in terms of nutritional value and taste, other tasty varieties like chomala and kaima, chennellu (a medicinal variety), apart from the aromatic jeerakasala and gandhakasala.

Rice farming in Wayanad is in a crisis. Paddy lands of Wayanad which extended over 40,000 hectares in the 1960s has come down to 8200 hectares as per 2015-16 statistics. With this decline, many traditional rice varieties have either become extinct or are in the verge of extinction. This is due to the emphasis given to high yielding varieties, low returns from paddy cultivation when compared to cash crops, shortage of labour and high labour cost. Because of this, more and more traditional farmers, mainly of tribal communities like the Kurichya and the Kuruma, are abandoning the crop of which they know inside-out through the traditional knowledge carried over through generations. Traditionally most of these tribes lived as joint families. As the joint family system disintegrates, the fields get continually split up. As a result, if some stretches get converted to banana, then neighbouring lands are also pressurised into doing so. Naturally, banana plantations are replacing paddy lands.

Conserving paddy cultivation and traditional rice varieties is even more important in the light of the contemporary phenomenon of climate change. In Wayanad itself, rainfall pattern is changing. Earlier, depending on the climatic conditions, farmers knew exactly which variety to grow and when. With both the number of traditional rice varieties and the rice farmers dwindling, this practice is no longer prevalent. Rice cultivation is also crucial in preserving the unique features of the wetland like water retention and ground water recharge.

In spite of all this, there are still some farmers in Wayanad who are continuing in this sector and also encouraging their peers to practise the same. One such farmer is **Cheruvayal Raman** of the place Edavaka in the district. He belongs to the Kurichya Adivasi community and has been a farmer for over 50 years. He gives away his paddy seeds to other farmers on the condition that they have to return him the exact quantity after harvest to ensure that the recipients cultivate the seeds they are given. It is high time that such farmers are given all support including financial assistance to keep up the traditional practice.

Cultivation of traditional varieties of spices like 'Wayanadan Manjal' - Turmeric and tuber varieties like 'Malaraman' ('Cheruchembu') - Colocasia are also practised in certain locations in the district.

With the aim of promoting such traditional and healthy practices which conserve biodiversity in farming sector, it is proposed to provide assistance for farmers engaged in the cultivation of traditional varieties of these crops.

The following rates of assistance are proposed for promoting cultivation of traditional varieties of crops.

Sl. No.	Crop	Assistance proposed (Rs. per ha.)
1	Paddy	10000
2	Ginger & Turmeric	12500
3	Pepper	20000
4	Other crops like millets, minor tubers etc.	7500

An amount of **Rs.25.00 lakhs** is proposed for this component. Only those farmers raising and conserving traditional varieties of crops need be selected for providing assistance.

## 2. Supply of planting materials of cool season vegetables (Rs.58.12 lakhs)

Seeds and seedlings of the following varieties of cool season vegetables are proposed to be distributed to farmers free of cost to promote their cultivation.

### i) Supply of Vegetable seedlings

Sl. No	Item	Rate (Rs)	No.s (in lakhs)	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Cabbage seedlings	3.00	5	15.00
2	Cauliflower	3.00	5	15.00
3	Broccoli	5.00	5	25.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>55.00</b>

The seedlings will be raised by agroservice centers/ BLFOs/farmers' clusters/ karshika karmasenas etc. In absence of such agencies, private nurseries approved by the State or Central Government may also be considered. They should supply the seedlings to Krishibhavans at the above mentioned rates including transportation charge. A total amount of **Rs.55.00 lakhs** is required for the production and distribution of **15 lakh vegetable seedlings**.

### ii) Supply of Vegetable Seeds

It is proposed to supply 5200 vegetable seed packets containing the seeds of carrot, onion, bush beans, trailing beans and beet root, free of cost to the farmers.

The vegetable seeds will be arranged through VFPCCK or other Government agencies at a cost of Rs.60/- per packet. The total cost for 5200 seed packets comes to Rs.3.12 lakhs.

A total amount of Rs.58.12 lakhs is set apart for supply of planting materials of cool season vegetables.

### 3. Area expansion through supply of fruit plants including high-value fruit crops (Rs.29.48 lakhs)

Saplings of the following fruit plants are proposed to be supplied to farmers at 90% subsidy to promote their cultivation in the district.

Sl No	Item	Rate (Rs. per sapling /graft)	Numbers	Cost (Rs.in lakhs)	Subsidy (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Mangosteen Seedlings	50	5200	2.60	2.34
2	Avocado Grafts	75	5200	3.90	3.51
3	Litchi(Air layer)	100	5200	5.20	4.68
4	Rambuttan Seedlings	20	5200	1.04	0.94
5	Durian Seedlings	100	5200	5.20	4.68
6	Gooseberry Grafts	100	5200	5.20	4.68
7	Guava layer(Poly bag)	100	5200	5.20	4.68
8	Pomegranate Seedlings	20	5200	1.04	0.93
9	Mango grafts	50	5200	2.60	2.34
10	Papaya (seedlings/layers)	15	5200	0.78	0.70
	<b>Total</b>		<b>52000</b>	<b>32.76</b>	<b>29.48</b>

The seedlings are proposed to be arranged from RARS Ambalavayal. Shortfall, if any, will be arranged through VFPCCK/ department farms other authentic sources.

#### 4. Promotion of cultivation of tuber crops (Rs.20.00 lakhs)

The climate and soil of Wayanad district are well suited for the cultivation of tuber crops. Tuber crop cultivation is a practice followed among farmers which need financial support for extending the cultivation further. It is proposed to provide 40% of the cultivation cost as assistance to farmers who cultivate any of the following tuber crops.

- a) Amorphophallus b) Greater Yam c) Lesser Yam d) Colocasia e) Coleus  
f) Sweet Potato

Area to be covered	Total cost of cultivation @ 50000/ha (Rs. in lakhs)	Assistance proposed (40%) @ 20000/ha (Rs. in lakhs)
100 ha	50.00	20.00

The planting materials can be arranged through farmer exchange or by using own seeds. An amount of **Rs.20.00 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

#### 5. Supply of tuber seed kits to SC/ST farmers (Rs.8.75 lakhs)

Tuber kits worth Rs.500/kit containing planting materials of tubers viz. Amorphophallus, Greater yam, Lesser Yam, Colocasia, Coleus and Sweet potato are proposed to be arranged from CTCRI or other government agencies and supplied free of cost to the SC/ST farmers. If one or two items mentioned are not available, it can be replaced with other suitable tuber crops. It is proposed to supply 1750 nos such kits to selected beneficiaries. A maximum of 2 kits will be supplied per farmer, based on the area available for cultivation. An amount of **Rs.8.75 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

#### 6. Support for Mushroom Cultivation (Rs.1.80 lakhs)

Many farmers in Wayanad district are now engaged in mushroom cultivation. They do not receive any assistance from any source now-a-days. Mushrooms have a growing demand in Wayanad, since large number of resorts are existing and tourism is on a growing path. One mushroom producing unit of minimum 400 beds per year cost approximately Rs.22500/-, for which 40% assistance limited to Rs.9000/- will be provided. One grower may be given assistance for a maximum of 2 units. **Twenty** numbers of mushroom production units will be assisted during 2017-18 with a total amount of **Rs.1.80 lakhs**.

### **7. Supply of Pulse Seed Kits (Rs.5.80 lakhs)**

Seeds kits of pulses like C.152 or other suitable varieties worth Rs.200/- will be supplied to farmers free of cost for cultivation as intercrop in pepper garden/coconut gardens/rice fallows/other cultivable lands receiving adequate sunlight. This will provide additional income to the farmers, maintain soil moisture during summer and also increase the nitrogen status of the soil. It is proposed to arrange 2900 pulse seed kits through government agencies like National Seeds Corporation (NSC), on the condition that the kits shall be supplied to the Krishibhavans @ Rs.200/kit, inclusive of the transportation charges. An amount of **Rs.5.80 lakhs** is set apart for this purpose.

### **8. Transportation charges of fruit plants and tuber kits to krishibhavans (Rs.1.05 lakhs)**

Since transportation of fruit saplings and tuber seed kits have to be done from RARS, Ambalavayal and CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram to the Krishibhavans of Wayanad district, a provision of Rs.1.05 lakhs is set apart to meet the transportation charges.

#### **Mode of implementation**

The Principal Agricultural Officer Wayanad will take necessary steps to implement the scheme successfully. Small and marginal farmers only should be considered for providing assistance. 10% of the total assistance should be extended to SC/ST farmers. Wide publicity should be given for collecting eligible applications.

The scheme will be implemented effectively by the Agricultural Officer at KrishiBhavan level, Assistant Director of Agriculture at block level, Deputy Director of Agriculture (H) and the Principal Agricultural Officer at the district level. The details of the scheme should be maintained in separate register in the Krishi Bhavan where the scheme is implemented. Assistance under the programme should be given to the beneficiaries through e-payment to the bank account of the beneficiary. The purchases of seed material/ seeds will be made by the Principal Agricultural Officer by placing indents.

Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will be in charge of the programme at the state level. The Principal Agricultural Officer, Wayanad will do the district level monitoring. The Assistant Directors of Agriculture at block level will be monitoring the implementation of the programme through respective KrishiBhavans. The field level implementation will be done by the Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Assistants should inspect all the plots before releasing of assistance.

The Principal Agricultural Officer, should take maximum effort for the effective and timely implementation of the scheme. The progress report and utilization certificate of the scheme should be timely sent addressing the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)

**Abstract of the component Development of Location Specific Crops**

Sl No	Particulars	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Assistance for cultivation and conservation of traditionally grown varieties of crops	25.00
2	Supply of planting materials of cool season vegetables	58.12
3	Area Expansion through supply of fruit plants including high value fruit crops	29.48
4	Promotion of cultivation of tuber crops	20.00
5	Supply of tuber seed kits to SC/ST farmers	8.75
6	Support for mushroom cultivation	1.80
7	Supply of pulse seed kits	5.80
8	Transportation charges	1.05
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150.00</b>

**Financial Outlay**

The expenditure of Rs. 150.00 lakhs will be met from the Budget provision of Rs. 1900.00 lakhs under the head of account 2401-00-800-27 OC Plan from the current years budget provision set apart for the implementation of Wayanad Package.

The receipt of the circular should be acknowledged by return.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture.

To

The Principal Agricultural Officer, Wayanad  
Planning section  
SW section  
IT cell

  
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