

**CIRCULAR**

Sub: Annual Plan, 2020-21 - Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories-  
Strengthening of Existing Quality Control Laboratories for Fertilizers and Pesticides  
Working Instructions Issued-Reg:

Ref: 1. Order No. TP (2) 12932/2019 Dated: 17.06.2020 of the Director of Agriculture.

Quality assurance of fertilizers and pesticides assumes importance as these primary inputs in agriculture significantly affect crop production and productivity. Quality control of fertilizers and pesticides is therefore one of the major services offered to the farming community by the Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare Department. Quality Control of fertilizers and pesticides is also a mandatory requirement as per the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and the Insecticide Act, 1968 for assuring economic benefits to farmers and checking environmental pollution.

There are two Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) established under the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare, one at Parottukonam in Thiruvananthapuram District and the other at Pattambi in Palakkad District. The analyzing capacity of each FQCL is 2500 samples per annum. There is also a State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL) established at Parottukonam in Thiruvananthapuram District with an annual analysing capacity of 2500 pesticide samples. Scientific analysis of statutory samples of fertilizers and pesticides drawn by Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors are carried out in these laboratories on a regular basis. This activity provides the Agriculture Department an array of regulatory measures for assuring quality in production, distribution, sale and consumption of fertilizers and pesticides in the State. With the given thrust in Organic farming, there is also an influx of different brands of organic products in the market and ensuring quality of such organic products has become a major challenge. Hence, a Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) has also been newly set up in the State at Pattambi in Palakkad District and this laboratory will be commissioned during 2020-21. It is important to provide adequate support to these laboratories for ensuring state of the art and updated facilities in respect of equipments, glasswares, scientific / standard operating procedures on analysis, infra-structure etc on a continuing basis.

As per the Annual Plan 2020-21, the scheme "**Modernization of Departmental Laboratories**" is proposed to be implemented during the current financial year with a budget allocation of Rs. 370.00 Lakhs under the head of account 2401-00-105-86-Plan. Out of this, components for Rs.243.72531Lakhs will be continued during 2020-21 and accordingly Continuous Administrative Sanction has now been received vide Order referred 1<sup>st</sup> above. This includes sanction of Rs. 23.60 Lakhs for the strengthening of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Quality Control Laboratories under the component, **Strengthening of Laboratories**, as detailed below.

**1. Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram for Quality Control of Pesticides (Rs. 12 Lakhs)**

The major activity of the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL) located at Parottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram is to analyze the quality of pesticide samples received from the Insecticide Inspectors as part of the department scheme on quality control and also the quality of plant protection chemicals purchased if any, for departmental purposes. Samples received from private institutions for quality check are also analyzed by charging fee as fixed by the Government. Analysis of samples of pesticides or chemicals seized / confiscated by Insecticide Inspectors or other competent officers as part of the enforcement of various statutory provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 is also carried out in this laboratory. Analysis of pesticide samples in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory is as per BIS specifications and the technical guidelines issued periodically by the Central Insecticide Laboratory, Faridabad, by following both instrumental as well as conventional methods.

The State Pesticide Testing Laboratory requires funds for the purchase of chemicals, certified reference materials, glasswares, gas fuel etc, maintenance and purchase of equipments, updating of operating procedures as per BIS standards, upgradation of infrastructure facilities, continuation of NABL accreditation process, repair & maintenance etc. An amount of **Rs.12 Lakh** is set apart during the current years budget for meeting the expenses for carrying out the routine activities of the laboratory and for the infrastructure development as follows, with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components within the total provision in a need based manner.

Sl. No	Particulars	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Purchase of Chemicals / Reference Materials	3.3
2	Purchase of Glasswares	0.62
3	Maintenance and Purchase of Equipments	6
4	Infrastructure development including disposal of remnant samples and hazardous wastes, Purchase of furniture & Other miscellaneous expenses.	2.08
	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Rupees Twelve Lakh only</b>		

2. **Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories at Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad ( Rs. 6.1 Lakh)**

The Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories conduct quality analysis of fertilizer samples received through Fertilizer Inspectors, as part of the Quality Control Scheme of the Agriculture Department. Provision is also there for analysis of outside samples from public and other institutions. Referee samples from other States and Check samples from Government of India are also analysed in these laboratories. Further, Government of India, have advised to carry out analysis of samples received directly from farmers not exceeding 10 % of the total capacity of the laboratories. Samples from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam and Eranakulam districts are analysed at FQCL Thiruvananthapuram and those from Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod are analysed at FQCL Pattambi. Fertilizer analysis is carried out as per the specifications contained in the Fertiliser (Control) Order 1985, by adopting both conventional and instrumental methods.

The Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories require funds for the basic activities such as purchase of chemicals and glasswares, comprehensive / periodic maintenance of old equipments, purchase of modern equipments, upgradation of infrastructure facilities including repair & maintenance etc. An amount of **Rs. 2.5lakh** is set apart for FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram and **Rs. 3.6 lakh** is set apart for FQCL, Palakkad for the following activities, with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components, within the total provision in a need based manner.

Sl. No	Particulars	FQCL Thiruvananthapuram (Lakh Rs)	FQCL Pattambi (Lakh Rs)	Total (Lakh Rs)
1	Purchase of Chemicals	0.3	0.6	0.9
2	Purchase of Glassware	0.4	0.3	0.7
3	Purchase of equipments, Repair / Maintenance of equipments and machineries including AMC/CMC, other need based purchases including computers and accessories etc.	1.6	0.8	2.4
4	Upgradation of infrastructural facilities, including maintenance and electrical works	-	1.4	1.4
5	Miscellaneous items	0.2	0.5	0.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>

**Commissioning of Bio-fertilizer & Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory at Pattambi ( Rs. 5.5 Lakh)**

The new Bio-fertilizer & Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) sanctioned by GO (RT) No. 1600/2014/AD dated 28.09.2014 shall be commissioned during 2020-21. The entire construction of building has been completed. Purchase of all equipments and other infrastructure required for the laboratory are also being effected. During the current financial year, an amount of **Rs.5.5 lakh** is earmarked for the following activities so as to make the Bio-fertilizer & Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory fully functional, with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components, within the total provision, in a need based manner

Sl. No	Particulars	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Purchase of Chemicals & Glasswares and Maintenance of equipments (AMC/CMC etc)	2.1
2.	Infrastructure and allied works	2.9
3.	Miscellaneous items	0.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Rupees Five Lakh Fifty Thousand only</b>		

The Summary of financial outlay for implementing the programme for Strengthening of Quality Control Laboratories for Fertilizers and Pesticides under the scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories, during 2020-21 is as follows:

Sl. No	Particulars	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram for Quality Control of Pesticides	12
2	Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories at Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad	6.1
3	Commissioning of Bio-fertilizer & Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) at Pattambi, Palakkad	5.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23.6</b>
<b>Rupees Twenty Three Lakh sixty Thousand only</b>		

Deputy Directors of Agriculture in charge of the laboratories shall be responsible for the implementation of the scheme. The implementing officers shall prepare an implementation schedule to complete the entire programmes including infrastructure / civil works in a pre-defined time-line.

The expenditure on the implementation of the scheme 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.

The Deputy Directors of Agriculture in charge of the laboratories will submit the monthly progress reports in the proformas specified. The Principal Agricultural Officer in the respective districts shall monitor the implementation of the programme. The Additional Director of Agriculture (Planning) will monitor the progress of the scheme at the State level and will ensure that the implementation is as per the existing procedures, rules and regulations.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

To

Deputy Director of Agriculture cum Senior Chemist, SPTL, Thiruvananthapuram

Deputy Director of Agriculture, FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram

Deputy Director of Agriculture, FQCL, Pattambi

Deputy Director of Agriculture i/c, BOQCL, Pattambi

Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri), Palakkad / Thiruvananthapuram


Executive Engineer (Agri), Kozhikode / Alappuzha

All Principal Agricultural Officers

CA to State Agricultural Engineer

CA to all Additional Directors of Agriculture

TA/CA to Director of Agriculture

  
DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (PP)  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE  
VIKAS BHAVAN TRIVANDRUM

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