

TM(1) 22235 /2020

Directorate of Agriculture Development
and Farmer's Welfare Department

Dated: 20/08/2020

CIRCULAR

Sub : Annual Plan 2020-21 – Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories –
Continuous Administrative sanction accorded – Detailed working instructions for
implementation of the component – Strengthening of State Agmark Grading
Laboratories – orders issued –reg:-

Ref : 1. Annual plan 2020-21

2. Order No.TP(2)12932/2019 dated 17.06.2020 of the Director of Agriculture
Development and Farmer's Welfare

Government of Kerala , vide order G.O.(Rt) No.911 /17 /AD dt
23/09/2017 , G O.(Rt) No.951 /17 /AD dt 06/10 /2017 and GO(Rt)No.624/18
Agri dated 27.06.2018 accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of
the scheme "**Modernization of Departmental Laboratories**" during the year
2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20. As per the reference cited above continuous
administrative sanction is accorded for the implementation of the scheme "
Modernisation of Departmental laboratories" during 2020--2021 for an amount of
Rs.370.00 lakhs debiting expenditure to the Head of Account 2401 -01 -105 -86
Plan from current year's budget provision

Strengthening of State Agmark laboratories is a component of the scheme
"**Modernization of Departmental Laboratories**" during the year 2020 -21. Vide
reference cited above Continuous administrative sanction has been accorded for
an amount of Rs. 12.00 lakhs for the implementation of the component
"Strengthening of Agmark grading Laboratories" under the Head of Account
2401- 01-105 -86 Plan during 2020- 21. The amount will be utilized for the
purchase of chemicals / glasswares , repair / purchase of equipments , creation

of additional infrastructure facilities , payment of honorarium to lab assistants , conduct of trainings for farmers /officers and organizing exhibitions / Melas related to quality control and marketing.

Grading of agricultural produce and quality control / assurance of quality of processed and packed food materials is of utmost importance in the present scenario. Grading and standardization of agricultural products will result in getting premium price for the products which will in turn benefit the farmers. Consumers will be assured of the quality of the products they buy.

The main objectives of the scheme are:

1. Assessing the quality of the farm produce marketed.
2. Fixing grades of commodities based on testing in the SAGL.
3. Guarantee movement of quality commodity from producer to consumer.
4. Facilitating export.
5. Creating awareness among the public regarding Agmark certification.

The detailed working instructions for each component are issued as follows :

1. Purchase of chemicals , equipments , strengthening of Laboratories and creation of infrastructural facilities in the SAGLs.

State Agmark Grading Laboratories are established in all the 14 districts of Kerala . These labs require annual purchase of chemicals , glassware, repair / purchase of equipments etc connected with the analysis of samples. Some laboratories need additional infrastructure and equipments. An amount of Rs. 7.00 lakhs is earmarked for purchase of chemicals / glasswares / equipments ,repair of equipments and strengthening laboratories in the SAGLs during the current year as per Annexure I

2. Training to Officers and Farmers:

Value addition and post harvest management are considered as the sunrise sectors in the changing economy. Agricultural marketing plays an important role in maximizing returns from production. The existing marketing system needs to be modernized through use of technology ,

improving skills, knowledge , attitude etc. the following areas have been identified for undertaking training : to create awareness to field functionaries and to farmers.

1. Information technology application in agricultural marketing
2. Food safety , quality certification and standardization.
3. Pesticide residue.
4. Marketing infrastructure.
5. Modern terminal markets and their operation management.
6. Market led extension.
7. Importance of sanitary and phytosanitary measures in quality control.
8. Grading , standardization and certification.
9. Popularization of APEDA schemes and standards of APEDA.
10. Warehousing and storage.
11. Decentralized grading of vegetables and fruits.
12. Promotion of safe to eat food products.

For imparting training the officials from DMI , CTCRI , VFPC, KAU, Spices Board , FSSAI and stakeholders at the district level connected with marketing may be invited. The training may be organized through RATTC, FTC, KVK etc. Agmark chemists of the districts will be the officer in charge for organizing trainings at district level. The Assistant Directors of Agriculture (Marketing) of the districts should give all necessary support for co-ordinating the trainings at the District level . The Principal Agricultural Officers should give all necessary support for the successful conduct of the trainings. It should be ensured that the training programmes to be completed by September 2020. Training should be conducted for farmers and officials.

An amount of Rs.0.60 lakhs is set apart for the conduct of trainings in the districts. The district wise allotment is shown in Annexure I. The same can be utilized for each training comprising not less than 25 participants through online mode owing to the Government restrictions prevailing in the State due to Covid 19

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a. Training to Officers.

Not less than 25 Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Assistants of each district will be given training on topics mentioned above.

b. Training to Farmers.

Not less than 25 farmers of each district will be given training on any of the topics mentioned above. The packers involved in Agmark Certification programme should also be included wherever possible.

The amount allotted for the trainings can be utilized for meeting the expenses towards honorarium to resource persons and other related expenditure.

Trainings should be completed by September, 2020.

The process of grading and analysis should be described through charts, pictures, pamphlets, power point presentations, videos etc in order to purchase only Agmark products and help them to distinguish between adulterated products. The public should also be made aware of the adulterants being used in the agricultural produce is being marketed

3. Organizing of exhibitions and melas.

It was actually proposed to organize /participate at least one exhibition /mela in each district at district level. But in the context of Government restrictions due to Covid 19, no physical gathering can be allowed

4. Honorarium to Lab Assistants.

State Agmark Grading Laboratories in Pathanamthitta, Kannur, Kasaragod, Idukki, Malappuram and Wayanad are assisted by laboratory assistants. The persons appointed should assist the Chemist in the SAGL for carrying out the analytical works of these labs. As this is an ongoing scheme sanction has been given to engage one lab assistant on contract basis in the above laboratories. Eligible persons having B.Sc Chemistry qualification may be engaged on contract basis as lab assistants by paying an honorarium of Rs.10000 /- per month in the SAGLs of Kannur, Kasaragod, Pathanamthitta,

Wayanad ,Idukki and Malappuram. Care has to be taken by SAGL Chemist to ensure the posted lab assistant's tenure not to exceed more than two years. In such cases SAGL Chemist should take steps well in advance to post suitable persons preferably with the help of employment exchange or walk in interviews after giving wide publicity. Principal Agricultural Officers of the districts should take necessary action to post a lab assistant for carrying out the works in the above labs and issue necessary orders in this regard. If a lab assistant has already been posted for continuing the above scheme , payment can be effected from April 2018 or the date from which the Lab Assistant is posted.

The physical and financial targets for Strengthening of Agmark Labs /purchase of chemicals / equipments, creation of infrastructure facilities , conduct of trainings , exhibition, payment of honorarium to lab assistants are appended in Annexure I

Monitoring and Evaluation.

The scheme will be monitored at the State level by the additional Director of Agriculture (Marketing). At the district level , the SAGL Chemist in association with Assistant Director of Agriculture (Marketing) should be responsible for the proper and timely implementation of the scheme with overall supervision of the Principal Agricultural Officer. The monthly progress report of the implementation of the schemes should be forwarded to the Additional Director of Agriculture , Directorate of Agriculture by **2nd of every month by the Principal Agricultural Officers** in the prescribed proforma.(Reporting and correspondence in this scheme may be made in the email id directorofmarketingagri@gmail.com). In case of Agmark analysis details of samples analysed in each month has to be submitted to the Directorate of Agriculture in prescribed proforma in the above mail id

Budget Outlay

1. Purchase of chemicals , equipments, strengthening of SAGLs and creation of infrastructural facilities in the SAGLs. : Rs. 7.00 lakhs

2. Training to officers and farmers	: Rs. 0.60 lakhs
3. Organizing exhibitions or melas	: Nil
4. Honorarium to lab assistants	: Rs. 4.40 lakhs
Total	: Rs. 12.00 lakhs

The expenditure for the same will be met from the budget provision for the current year from the Head of Account 2401 -00 -105 -86 Plan under the scheme for Modernization of departmental laboratories – Strengthening of State Agmark Grading laboratories 2020-21.


Director of Agriculture

To



All Principal Agricultural Officers
Assistant Director of Agriculture (M) of the districts(through PAO)
SAGL Chemists (through PAO)

Copy to:

1. TA to Director of Agriculture
2. CA to Additional Director of Agriculture(Marketing)
3. TP(2)Section for allotting the funds as per Annexure I
4. Finance Section
5. Accounts Section
6. Deputy Director IT Cell for publishing in the website
7. Stock file.

Annexure I

Component wise allotment

Sl.No.	Districts	Purchase of chemicals etc.(Rs.)	Training (Rs.)	Honorarium(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)
1.	Thiruvananthapuram	50,000	4,295		54,295
2.	Kollam	50,000	4,285		54,285
3.	Alappuzha	50,000	4,285		54,285
4.	Pathanamthitta	50,000	4,285	1,00,000	1,54,285
5.	Kottayam	50,000	4,285		54,285
6.	Idukki	50,000	4,285	50,000	1,04,285
7.	Ernakulam	50,000	4,285		54,285
8.	Thrissur	50,000	4,285		54,285
9.	Palakkad	50,000	4,285		54,285
10.	Malappuram	50,000	4,285	50,000	1,04,285
11.	Kozhikkode	50,000	4,285		54,285
12.	Wayanad	50,000	4,285	50,000	1,04,285
13.	Kannur	50,000	4,285	1,00,000	1,54,285
14.	Kasaragod	50,000	4,285	90,000	1,44,285
	Total	7,00,000	60,000	4,40,000	12,00,000