

TB(1)12070/2020

Directorate of Agriculture Development
and Farmers Welfare Department
Thiruvananthapuram.
Date: 05 /10/2020

CIRCULAR

Sub: Coconut Development Scheme-Implementation of Keragramam 2020-21- revised guidelines in the context of COVID 19 pandemic in the State - issued – reg.

Ref: Circular of even no. Dated: 15/07/2020

As per the circular cited above, guidelines for implementation of Coconut Development Scheme - Keragramam during 2020-21 has been communicated. A massive movement involving removal of diseased and senile palms, replanting with high yielding productive coconut seedlings, scientific cultivation approaches etc. are envisaged for the implementation of the scheme based on group activity by forming Kera Samithies in the Panchayats selected. In the guidelines for implementation of integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement under Keragramam, it has also been instructed to enrol the beneficiary farmers in the state crop insurance scheme.

Principal agricultural Officers of several districts have informed that the Agricultural Officers are facing difficulty in convening public meetings for forming Kera Samithies and enrolling the farmers in the crop insurance scheme due to restrictions imposed due to the prevalent COVID 19 pandemic as various field operations are carried out collectively through Kera samithies. This leads to problems and delay in the implementation of scheme at field level.

The matter has been examined in detail and the following revised guidelines are issued for implementation of Keragramam during 2020-21.

- 1. Ward level Kera Samithies / Panchayat level Kera Samithies may be convened wherever possible by following COVID 19 protocol or through video conferencing.**
- 2. If public meeting is not possible due to COVID 19 restrictions, the scheme shall be implemented with the approval of panchayat level Agricultural Development Committee in a time bound manner during this cropping season itself.**
- 3. In order to compensate the crop loss due to natural calamities, all farmers are advised to insure their crops as per the State Crop Insurance Scheme. Since persuading all farmers in**

the Keragramam to insure their crop is a cumbersome process for which considerable time loss occurs and due to prevailing COVID 19 situations, this can be relaxed with the approval of ADC for speedy implementation of the project.

4. Farmers are eligible for assistance during consecutive three years under Keragramam. If sufficient beneficiaries are not available for second year and third year assistance under Keragramam, new beneficiary farmers may be selected by Agricultural Officers after ensuring that such farmers have followed scientific management practices during previous year/ years. Also if sufficient area is not available in the selected grama panchayat/LSGD, adjacent LSGDs shall be considered with the approval of Principal Agricultural Officer.

5. The Agricultural Officers shall ensure that farmers have applied all recommended inputs and conducted all cultural operations as envisaged in the Scheme. However, Agricultural Officers are not required to purchase the inputs and distribute them to the farmers. They are required to advise and monitor the implementation of the scheme in a scientific and time bound manner.

6. The Principal Agricultural Officer should ensure that the funds allotted for first, second and third year Keragramams are utilised by 31st December,2020.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture



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