

CIRCULAR

Sub : Annual Plan 2020-21 – Arecanut Package – Working Instructions issued – reg.

Ref : 1) G.O.(Rt)No. 887/2019/AGRI Thiruvananthapuram dated 27.09.2019

2) Annual Plan 2020-21.

3) GO (Rt.) No. 589/2020/AGRI dated 29/06/2020

The arecanut farmers in the state have been experiencing a tough time for nearly two decades. Low production and productivity followed by severe disease manifestation especially of fruit rot (Mahali) and yellow leaf disease compounded with the liberal import policies have culminated in drastic price fall. The management practices of arecanut gardens like fertilizer / manurial application, control of Mahali, bud rot and Yellow Leaf disease, irrigation and maintaining the garden in phytosanitary conditions is expensive. The prevailing price of arecanut is also not so remunerative.

Financial support is needed for arecanut farmers throughout the State, especially northern districts. But due to the shortage of funds, the scheme is limited to the northern districts - Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Idukki and Wyanad districts during 2020-21. Funds for Kasargode district can be located from "Kasargode Package" implemented through the District Collector.

Government of Kerala, vide order read 1st read above accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme, 'Arecanut Package' during 2019-20. As per the Annual Plan 2020-21, the scheme is proposed to be continued during current financial year with a total allocation of Rs. 100.00 Lakh under Head of Account 2401-00-108-56 Plan, abiding by the norms and conditions of the Government Orders as per the references. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 35.814 lakh was allotted for encashment of Queue bills & WAMS clearance bills of 2019-20 and bills not e-submitted to treasury upto 31.3.2020 and submitted on or before 18/4/2020. Hence the balance available for issuing Administrative Sanction during 2020-21 is only **Rs. 64.186 lakh**.

Administrative Sanction for the scheme "Arecanut Package" for Rs. 64.186 lakh has been received vide reference (3) cited. Accordingly, Working instruction for the "Arecanut Package" is issued herewith, the details of which are as follows:

Objective

- Plant protection through spraying against Bud rot & Fruit Rot (Mahali) of Arecanut in 240 ha and providing plant protection equipments.
- Cut & removal of 12000 nos. of bud rot / yellow leaf disease affected palms

- Maintenance of existing garden through intercultural operations, organic manure application, irrigation etc.
- To provide assistance for new seedlings (24000 numbers) for undertaking under planting / new planting.
- To support arecanut farmers to improve arecanut farming practices and provide better returns.

The Programme

Financial Assistance is proposed for the following components:

1. Maintenance of Existing Garden

In order to maintain the arecanut plantation healthy, the following practices have to be adopted.

a. Plant Protection

Arecanut is a crop which is highly prone to diseases like Fruit Rot (Mahali), Bud Rot and yellow leaf. Incidence of Mahali disease, caused by the fungus *Phytophthora palmivora* occurs during monsoon season since the wet conditions are suited for fungal growth and multiplication. Once the palm is infected with Mahali and bud rot, it will be very difficult to control the disease.

(i) Spraying

Prophylactic control measures by adopting two sprayings with Bordeaux mixture before the onset of South-West and North-East monsoons have to be adopted to maintain plantation / crop in a healthy way. Financial assistance is provided for carrying out one spraying, as given below :

Inputs required per ha for preparation of Bordeaux mixture

Copper sulphate @ 9.75 kg (Rs. 210 per kg) – Rs. 2047.50

Lime @ 9.75 kg (Rs 15/- per kg) - Rs. 146.25

Rs. 2193.75

Assistance sanctioned - Rs. 2000 / ha

Area to be covered - 240 ha

Total amount sanctioned as assistance - Rs. 4,80,000/-

(ii) Purchase of Plant Protection Equipments

Plant protection Equipments such as Power Sprayers are needed for effective spraying of pesticides. Hence, it is proposed to provide 50% subsidy limited to Rs. 10,000/- per Power Sprayer, to arecanut farmers under this scheme.

Financial assistance of Rs. 58,600/- is provided as assistance for six Power Sprayers.

b. Cut and removal of Bud rot / Yellow Leaf disease affected palms

Yellow leaf disease is another debilitating disease affecting Arecanut palms. It is observed that there is practically no control measures against yellow leaf disease, once the infection has started in an arecanut palm. This disease along with Bud rot and Mahali has resulted in economic loss for farmers. Presence of disease affected palms in the plantation serve as source of infection to other healthy palms. Hence, removal of such palms is envisaged in this component. It is also recommended by Kerala Agricultural University that when only a few plants are affected in a garden, remove them to prevent further spread of the disease.

It is proposed to provide financial assistance @ Rs. 200/- per palm for cut and removal of palms affected with yellow leaf disease. Maximum number for which assistance can be given is limited to 50 nos. per hectare. Infected plants if any above this number has to be removed by the farmer at his own cost to achieve full control over spread of disease.

An amount of **Rs. 24,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty four lakhs)** is set apart for this component for cut and removal of 12000 palms on a need-based manner.

c. Application of inputs and intercultural operations

Keep the garden weed-free through regular intercultural operations. Such phytosanitary measures have proved effective in preventing the occurrence of Yellow leaf disease of arecanut, the cause of which is a combination of physiological and microbial factors. Organic manures, especially neem cake application can be done to supplement soil health.

Financial Assistance of **Rs. 24,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty four lakhs)** with 75% subsidy limited to Rs. 10000/ha is provided for organic manure in order to improve soil health and tolerance to pests and diseases in 240 ha.

d. Intercropping

Intercropping in arecanut gardens with Tubers, Banana etc can be done to utilise the available space for augmenting food production and to generate additional income for the farmer. An assistance @ 2500 per hectare is provided for promoting intercropping in arecanut gardens.

An amount of **Rs. 6,00,000/- (Six Lakhs)** for 240 ha is set apart for this component.

2. Under planting in existing gardens / new planting

Planting with good quality and high yielding varieties and local varieties with good performance has to be done. The cost of high yielding variety comes to Rs. 20/- per seedling. It is proposed to provide 100% assistance for carrying out underplanting in existing gardens to maintain optimum plant population. Under planting / replanting can be done in plantations where disease affected palms have been removed. New planting can also be carried out, wherever required.

No. of seedlings to be planted – 24000 numbers

Total amount sanctioned @ Rs. 20/- per seedling – Rs. 4,80,000/-

Financial Outlay

In the annual plan 2020-21, an amount of Rs.100.00 lakhs is set apart for the scheme “Areca nut Package” under Head of Account 2401 – 00 – 108 – 56 Plan. The required amount of Rs. 64.186 lakhs (Rupees sixty four lakhs eighteen thousand and six hundred only) can be met from this budget provision. Out of the above, Rs.5.00 lakh is proposed for Idukki district and Rs.20.00 lakh for Wayand district as per Annual Plan write-up of 2020-21. Funds for Kasargode district can be located from “Kasargode Package” implemented through the District Collector.

H o A/c : 2401 – 00 – 108 – 56 Plan

Rs. 64.186 lakh

Sl. No.	Component	Rate of Assistance	Area / No. proposed to be covered	Total amount required (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	(i) Plant Protection (Spraying)	2000 / ha	240 ha	4.800
	(ii) Plant Protection Equipments (Power Sprayer)	10000/ no.	6 nos.	0.586
2.	Cut & removal of Disease affected palms	200 / palm	12000 palms	24.000
3.	Application of inputs and intercultural operations	10000 / ha	240 ha	24.000
4.	intercropping	2500/ha	240 ha	6.000
5.	Underplanting in existing gardens / new planting	20/ seedling	24000 seedlings	4.800
	Total			64.186

Implementation and Monitoring

The components in the scheme will be implemented through the Krishi Bhavans by selecting the beneficiaries after discussion with the Agricultural Development Committee. At Block level ADA and at District level Deputy Director (H) will monitor the progress periodically under the overall supervision of Principal Agricultural Officer and submit report to the Director of Agriculture with specific component wise achievements and the outcome.

At State level, Additional Director (CP) will monitor the programme. The Principal Agricultural Officers should submit component-wise monthly progress report to the Director of Agriculture.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

SAJEEV GOPIKRISHNA
Joint Director of Agriculture (WM)
Directorate of Agriculture Development
and Farmers' Welfare Department
Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram - 33

Copy to:

1. PAOs Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Idukki, Wyanad & Kasargode
2. Additional Director (CP)
3. IT section
4. Stock File
5. TP section
6. SW section

ANNEXURE I

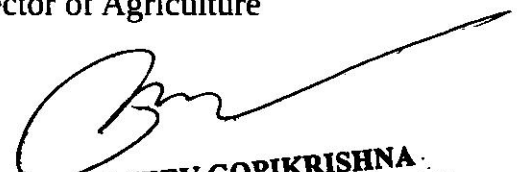
District wise Physical and Financial targets of Arecanut Package 2020-21

Components	Idukki		Wyanad		Malappuram		Kannur		Kozhikode		Total	
	Physical (no. / ha)	Financial (lakh)	Physical (ha)	Financial (lakh)	Physical (ha)	Financial (lakh)	Physical (ha)	Financial (lakh)	Physical (ha)	Financial (lakh)	Physical (ha)	Financial (lakh)
(i) Plant Protection (Spraying)	19 ha	0.380	75 ha	1.500	51 ha	1.020	50 ha	1.000	45 ha	0.900	240 ha	4.800
(ii) Plant Protection Equipments (Power Sprayer)	0	0	2 nos.	0.186	2 no.	0.200	1 no.	0.100	1 no.	0.100	6 nos.	0.586
Cut & removal of Disease affected palms	950 palms	1.900	3750 palms	7.500	2550 palms	5.100	2500 palms	5.000	2250 palms	4.500	12000 palms	24.000
Application of inputs and intercultural operations	19 ha	1.900	75 ha	7.500	51 ha	5.100	50 ha	5.000	45 ha	4.500	240 ha	24.000
Intercropping	19 ha	0.475	75 ha	1.875	51 ha	1.275	50 ha	1.250	45 ha	1.125	240 ha	6.000
Underplanting in existing gardens / New planting	1900 seedlings	0.380	7500 seedlings	1.500	5100 seedlings	1.020	5000 seedlings	1.000	4500 seedlings	0.900	24000 seedlings	4.800
Total		5.035		20.061		13.715		13.350		12.025		64.186

(Rupees Sixty Four Lakh Eighteen Thousand Six hundred only)

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture


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