

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2020-21-Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories-
Enforcement of Quality Control of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides through Quality
Control Enforcement Wing-Revised Working Instruction Issued- Reg.

Ref:- Order No:ADFW/476/2020-TP2 dtd 08/01/2021

Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are the primary inputs in agricultural production. Government of India have enacted various Acts, Rules and Orders to regulate the production, movement, distribution and quality of these inputs. The Seed Act, 1966, The Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seed (Control) Order, 1983 framed by the Central Government provides the platform for regulating the quality of seed of any kind or variety to be sold for the purposes of use in agriculture. The Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985 and the Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 framed by the Central Government under Section 10 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 provide the regulatory mechanism on the import, manufacture, movement, distribution/sale and quality control of fertilizers all over India. Regulations on the import, manufacture, distribution/sale and quality control of pesticides are laid out through the insecticides Act 1968 and the Insecticides Rules 1971.

The Quality Control Enforcement Wing under the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare is responsible for enforcing all the statutory regulations including Certification, Registration, Licensing, Movement and Quality Control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. All the activities initiated during 2016-17 on a campaign mode and continued upto 2019-20 for streamlining the enforcement activities in the certification, registration, licensing and quality control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides shall be continued during 2020-21 under the Quality Control Enforcement Wing. Apart from this as per the Government Order referred above administrative sanction has been accorded for the implementation of the Scheme on Enforcement of Quality Control of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides through Quality Control Enforcement Wing under the Modernization of Departmental Laboratories with a total financial outlay of Rs. 35 lakhs.

Objectives

- 1) Ensuring availability of quality agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in the State.
- 2) Strengthening the institutional mechanism of quality control.
- 3) Enforcement of regulations on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.
- 4) Quality control by systematic sampling, analysis and proceeding action against non-standard items.
- 5) Maintaining strict vigilance on spurious products and also instill awareness among various stake holders on the quality aspects of different agricultural inputs.

The different programmes as shown below are envisaged under the annual plan 2020-21, Director of Agriculture shall be vested with the flexibility for implementation of the various components on priority/need based manner.

1. Drawal of Statutory Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control (Rs.14.50144Lakhs)

Sample analysis of Seeds, Fertilizers and Pesticides assumes importance as it provides an array of regulatory measures in assuring the quality in production, movement, distribution and consumption of these inputs in crop production.

Drawal of Seed Samples

The Annual analyzing capacity of seed samples in the State Seed Testing Laboratory, Alappuzha and Seed Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram is 3000 and 1000 samples respectively. All the Block level Assistant Directors of Agriculture, designated as Seed Inspector, have to draw samples of seeds and send the same in accordance with the procedure laid down in the seeds (Control) Order, 1983 to the Seed Testing Laboratory to ensure that the seed sample conforms to minimum seed certification standards. Seeds produced locally and means for sale or export and the imported seeds can be drawn for quality analysis. Seeds produced under the Registered Seed Growers Programme are also to be drawn by the Assistant Directors of Agriculture and send for quality analysis.

Drawal of Fertilizer Samples

At present, we have the potential for analyzing about 5000 fertilizer samples annually through the two Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) at Thiruvananthapuram and Pattambi. It is required to fully utilize the potential of both the laboratories for enhancing the quality control of fertilizers. Fertilizer Inspectors have to draw statutory samples such that all the fertilizer depots within the Krishibhavan are covered. 70 percent of the samples drawn should be of physical

mixtures of fertilizers. Samples from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, and Ernakulam districts are to be sent to FQCL Thiruvananthapuram and those from Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod to FQCL Pattambi. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should primarily focus on manufacturing and distribution/wholesale units. They should also draw samples of micro-nutrients for analysis at the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory (FQCL), Thiruvananthapuram&Pattambi.

The new Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) set up at Pattambi in Palakkad District shall be commissioned during 2020-21. Target for drawal of samples of organic manures and bio-fertilizers by the Fertilizer Inspectors shall be assigned separately upon commissioning of the laboratory. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should draw and send the samples to RCOF Stations until the commissioning of the Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) at Pattambi. Apart from the statutory samples as above, some fraction of the analysing capacity of the Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCLs) is earmarked for samples brought directly by farmers. However, the results of such tests shall not be the basis of initiating legal action.

Department of Fertilizer, GOI have now made it mandatory to submit the Quality Certificate (B2 Certificate) for releasing fertilizer subsidy on central allocation to the distributing firms. It is also required to upload this certificate in the Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) website, on a regular basis. As such, quality inspection, sampling and sample analysis have to be performed for each batch/lot of fertilizer arriving in every district in the State. Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC) in charge of the district shall be responsible for performing this activity and the number of samples under this programme shall be over and above the target stated above. Further, the target given for seed sample analysis does not include Registered seed Growers Programme.

Drawal of Pesticide Samples

The annual analysing capacity of pesticide samples in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory is 2500 and this potential needs to be fully utilized. Insecticides Inspectors have to draw statutory samples such that all the pesticides depots within the Krishibhavan are covered. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) should primarily focus on manufacturing and distribution/ Wholesale units. They are also required to draw samples of bio-control agents and send it to RCOF Stations for quality analysis. Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) should ensure that the mandatory visits in all manufacturing units and all establishments selling the insecticides are carried out as per

provisions of the Insecticides Rules, 1971 and the standing instructions of the Director of Agriculture on Government directives.

Under the Annual Plan 2020-21 Rs. 14.00144 lakh has been earmarked under Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-Plan for meeting the expenditure on drawal of samples of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides for quality analysis. It can be utilized for all related expenses on quality control, which may include cost of sample, cost towards containers, cloth bags, despatch of samples etc, and other miscellaneous items. The District-wise target for Drawal of Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control is Provided in the Table below.

District-wise Physical and Financial Target on Drawal of statutory samples of Fertilizers Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control. as per Order No: ADFN/476/2020.TP2 dt 8/1/2021.

District	Financial Target (Lakh Rs.)	Physical Target of Samples							
		Fertilizers	Micro Nutrients	Organic Manures	Bio-Fertilizers	Pesticides	Bio-Control Agents	Seeds	
								Pad dy See ds	Veg. Seed s
Thiruvananthapuram	2.335	310				170		20	30
Thiruvananthapuram ADA (QC)	0	260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kollam	0.62932	290							
Pathanamthitta	0.5694	190				120		20	20
Alappuzha	1.2878	290				70		20	20
Alappuzha-ADA (QC)	0	260	25	15	15	160	15	45	30
Kottayam	0.83423	290							
Idukki	0.59628	190				170		20	20
Ernakulam	1.02	320				100		20	20
Thrissur	1.81499	360				170		35	20
Thrissur ADA (QC)	0	260	25	15	15	180		45	30
Palakkad	0.93008	370				160	15		
Malappuram	1.00759	370				170		80	30
Kozhikode	1.77	350				175		40	30
Kozhikode ADA (QC)	0	260	25	15	15	170		20	20
						160	15		

						65		20	20
Wayanad	0.30805	100				100		20	30
Kannur	0.93175	350				30		20	30
Kasargodu	0.46695	80				2500	60	425	350
Total	14.50144	4900	100	60	60				

Quality control of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is one of the major service of the Agriculture Department rendered to the farming community and implementation of this programme ultimately envisages to ensure economic benefit to the farming community. Hence quality analysis of samples should always be collaborated with the ensuing cropping seasons. Drawal and analysis of samples should be carried out as a continuing programme without awaiting for the administrative sanction/working instructing of the Annual Plan Scheme in future, based on the physical target in the preceeding year. 70% of the sample analysis of seeds fertilizers and pesticides is to be completed during the period from April to October commensurating with the virippu and mundakan seasons and 30% during the puncha season every year and there are standing instructions to follow this.

Principal Agricultural Officers should ensure, that the targets given as above are achieved in full and in time. The monthly progress report on the implementation of the programme on Drawal of samples for Quality Control should be submitted to the Director of Agriculture by 5th of every month in the proforma specified.

2. Surveillance on Organic Protectants/Bio-Pesticides in the market (Rs. 4.00 Lakh)

There is growing concern about the genuiness of many bio-pesticides (botanical/ organic biological origin) and growth promoters sold throughout Kerala under various proprietary names. Most of these products branded as plant metabolites or botanical origin are not properly labelled regarding its active ingredients or actual composition. At present, our State has no laboratory facilities to undertake such comprehensive analysis to identify the presence of any contaminants or chemical pesticides in these organic products. NIPHM Hyderabad has consented to analyse such products in their laboratory as per our requirement to exclude the chances of contamination in such products by any ingredient of chemical nature or by chemical pesticides. This analysis shall incur a cost of about Rs. 10000/- or Rs. 20000/- per sample depending on the methodology for analysis.

During the current year, samples of Organic Protectants/Bio-Pesticides in the market shall be procured and sent for analysis at NIPHM Laboratory, Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) shall be primarily responsible for collecting and sending the sample for analysis. Other Insecticide Inspectors in the districts can also send such samples after obtaining sanction from the Deputy Director of Agriculture (E&T).

It should be ensured that such samples are collected from sellers only and on cash purpose with proper documentation of purchase. An amount of Rs. 4.00 Lakhs is earmarked for this programme during 2020-21, for need based allocation for meeting the cost of samples and other miscellaneous expenses as follows.

Physical and Financial Target on Surveillance on Organic Protectants/ Bio-Pesticides in the market.

No.	District	Physical Target	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	ADA(QC)Thiruvananthapuram (Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam)	10	1.212
2	ADA(QC)Alappuzha (Alappuzha, Idukki and Ernakulam)	6	0.728
3	ADA (QC) Thrissur (Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram)	7	0.848
4	ADA(QC) Kozhikode (Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod)	10	1.212
	Total	33	4.00

3. Mass Awareness Programmes and Special Campaign Week (Rs. 7.6 Lakh)

It is required to continue the efforts in creating increased awareness among farmers, input dealers and public at large on the need for scientific use of fertilizers and pesticides. A number of initiatives such as mass media advertisement, conduct of seminars, conduct of training programmes etc carried out from 2016-17 upto 2019-20 shall be continued in 2020-21 also. Special campaign awareness week shall be organized throughout the State in the cropping season. During this period, mass awareness programmes shall be conducted in every block aimed at creating awareness on Soil fertility/ Soil Health Card based fertilizer application. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Plant Protection Practices (GPP), New generation & Organic/ bio-pesticides, health hazards of indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides etc. This campaign should be conducted ensuring the full co-operation of all fertilizer/ pesticide/ seed dealers and other stakeholders.

Block Level Assistant Directors of Agriculture shall co-ordinate the entire activities of the Special Campaign Week and they will be at their discretion to plan and organize the programmes in the most benefitting manner ensuring maximum public participation, involvement of all stakeholders, maximum awareness creation, etc for achieving the aims described above. Principal Agricultural Officers shall allocate funds to the Assistant Directors of Agriculture proportionate to the number of Krishibhavans under each block not exceeding Rs.2500.00 per Krishibhavan. An amount of Rs. 7.6 lakh is earmarked for these programmes.

District -wise Financial Target on Mass Awareness Programmes and Special Campaign Week

No.	District	Physical Target	Amount (Lakh Rs)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	27	0.675
2	Kollam	18	0.45
3	Pathanamthitta	14	0.35
4	Alappuzha	22	0.55
5	Kottayam	22	0.55
6	Idukki	27	0.675
7	Ernakulam	27	0.675
8	Thrissur	27	0.675
9	Palakkad	22	0.55
10	Malappuram	27	0.675
11	Kozhikode	22	0.55
12	Wayanad	12	0.3
13	Kannur	27	0.675
14	Kasargodu	10	0.25
	Total	304	7.6

4. Training for Input Agencies (Rs. 7.572 lakhs)

Seed, Fertilizer and Pesticide dealers are integral part of the farming sector and the Department is committed to safe-guard the interests of these stakeholders. However, stringent enforcement actions initiated, have caused certain misunderstandings among the input dealers and this is primarily due to ignorance of the statutory provisions of the respective Acts, Rules or Orders. Regular trainings/ meeting of input agencies carried out during the earlier T &V System was later ignored. It is therefore proposed that Input Dealer Meet shall be conducted in every block once in two months. Further, a workshop/seminar shall be conducted for all the input dealers in every block in each crop season, for which a financial support, not exceeding Rs.3600.00 per workshop /seminar per crop season shall be provided. A district level seminar involving the participation of input manufacturers, distributors and dealers is also proposed to be conducted by the Principal Agricultural Officer during the year, for which a financial support not exceeding Rs. 15000.00 shall be provided

Apart from these, training programmes shall also be conducted for input dealers through RATTCs / FTCs aimed to create awareness and imparting knowledge on all regulatory compliance on aspects of production, movement, distribution and sale of inputs.

The financial provisions for implementing the different programmes for Training and Recognition for Input Agencies shall be summarized as follows:

**District-wise Target on Mass Training for Input Agencies
(Amount in Lakh Rs)**

District	Workshop @Rs.3600/block		District Seminar@Rs.15000/district		Total Amount
	No	Amount	No	Amount	
Thiruvananthapuram	11	0.396	1	0.15	0.546
Kollam	11	0.396	1	0.15	0.546
Pathanamthitta	8	0.288	1	0.15	0.438
Alappuzha	12	0.432	1	0.15	0.582
Kottayam	11	0.396	1	0.15	0.546
Idukki	8	0.288	1	0.15	0.438
Ernakulam	14	0.504	1	0.15	0.654
Thrissur	16	0.576	1	0.15	0.726
Palakkad	13	0.468	1	0.15	0.618
Malappuram	15	0.540	1	0.15	0.69
Kozhikode	12	0.432	1	0.15	0.582
Wayanad	4	0.144	1	0.15	0.294
Kannur	11	0.396	1	0.15	0.546
Kasargodu	6	0.216	1	0.15	0.366
Total	152	5.472	14	2.10	7.572

5. Empowering Seed/Fertilizer /Insecticide Inspectors, Conduct of Workshop, Publication/purchase of Handbook etc. Rs. 1 Lakh

There is a need for empowering Department Officers to make them competent in the statutory provisions of the relevant acts, rules and orders to function as seed/ Fertilizer / Inspectors. Hence, it is proposed that a Key Resource Group (KRG) / Master Trainers Group (MTG), competent in all aspects of the relevant Acts shall be developed by selecting suitable Officers and deputing them to national level accredited training institutes such as NIPHM for special trainings or to organize such trainings by SAMETI with the participation of expert faculties. Further, a series of training programs shall also be organized at SAMETI, RATTCs and FTCs for the Seed/Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors and other officers, Enforcement Handbooks shall be developed by the State Enforcement Cell and publications incorporating the new amendments on Insecticides Act & Insecticides Rules, Fertilizer Control Order, Seed Act etc. may also be made available to the Enforcement Officers. An amount of Rs. 1 Lakh is earmarked for meeting the related expenditure and it will be allocated on need basis.

6. Expert Committee on Quality Assurance and Enforcement (0.1 lakh)

An Expert committee on Quality Assurance of Agricultural Inputs and Enforcement Activities was reconstituted with Agricultural Production Commissioner as Chairman and Director of Agriculture as Convenor as per G.O (Rt) No.1024/2019/Agri dated 1/11/2019. This expert committee shall be responsible for periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the quality assurance of agricultural inputs and enforcement activities and to recommend new strategies. Meetings

Workshop shall be conducted to this effect. Apart from this the committee constituted vide G.O (Rt) No.1031/02/2002 for evaluation of organic products shall be re-constituted and the Terms of Reference (ToR) will be modified to establish a regular system for granting approval of standardized organic inputs (fertilizers and pesticides) in the State. An amount of Rs. 0.1Lakh is earmarked for related expenses including Honorarium, Travel expenses and related expenses.

7. Computer Infrastructure and other accessories and Manpower Support for the State Enforcement Cell (Rs. 0.22656)

It is proposed to provide support to the Enforcement Cell at the Directorate for providing computer infrastructure of required configuration facilitate the On-line Management System and FQCS web portal Accessories may include other facilities such as multi-functional printer, scanner etc.

A total provision of Rs 0.22656 lakhs earmarked for this component.

Summary of District-wise Allocation of Fund (in Lakh)

District	Drawal of Sample	Surveillance of Organic inputs	Mass Awareness	Training & Recognition for Input Agencies	Total Amount
Thiruvananthapuram	2.335	1.212	0.675	0.546	4.768
Kollam	0.62932		0.45	0.546	1.62532
Pathanamthitta	0.5694		0.35	0.438	1.3574
Alappuzha	1.2878	0.728	0.55	0.582	3.1478
Kottayam	0.83423		0.55	0.546	1.93023
Idukki	0.59628		0.675	0.438	1.70928
Ernakulam	1.02		0.675	0.654	2.349
Thrissur	1.81499	0.848	0.675	0.726	4.06399
Palakkad	0.93008		0.55	0.618	2.09808
Malappuram	1.00759		0.675	0.69	2.37259
Kozhikode	1.77	1.212	0.55	0.582	4.114
Wayanad	0.30805		0.3	0.294	0.90205
Kannur	0.93175		0.675	0.546	2.15275
Kasargode	0.46695		0.25	0.366	1.08295
Total	14.50144	4.00	7.6	7.572	33.67344

The expenditure towards implementation of various components of this programme 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 to Store purchase rules should be strictly adhered to for all kinds of purchases and Tender/ e-Tender formalities shall be followed wherever necessary.

Details of fund to be retained initially at the HQ are as follows :

No	Particulars	Amount in Lakh Rs.
1.	Empowering Seed/Fertilizer/Insecticide Inspectors, Conduct of workshop,publication/purchase of Handbook etc	1
2.	Expert Committee on Quality assurance and Enforcement	0.1
3	Computer Infrastructure and other accessories for the State Enforcement Cell	0.22656
	Sub Total(HQ)	1.32656
	Grand Total	35

The Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) will be responsible for implementing the scheme in the districts. The principal Agricultural Officer in the respective districts shall monitor the implementation of the programme. The Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor the progress of the programmes at the State Level and will ensure that the implementation of the entire programme is as per the existing procedures, rules and regulations.

Sd/-

Director of Agriculture

To

All Principal Agricultural Officers / Project Directors, ATMA
Deputy Director of Agriculture, IT Cell
Deputy Director of Agriculture, RATTCs, FTCs
ADA(QC)s, Trivandrum, Alapuzha, Thrissur, Kozhikkode
TA, TQ, TF Sections
CA to all Additional Directors of Agriculture
Director, SAMETI with C/L

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Planning Section
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