

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE**  
**DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FARMERS'**  
**WELFARE, VIKAS BHAVAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

(Present Dr.K.Vasuki IAS)

Sub: Annual Plan 2021-22 – **Scheme on Rice Development** – Continuous  
Administrative sanction accorded – orders issued- reg:

Read: 1) G.O.(Rt) No.251/2019/AGRI dated.08.03.2019.  
(2) G.O.(Rt) No.762//2019/AGRI dated.08.08.2019.  
(3) G.O.(Rt) No.942/2019/AGRI dated.14.10.2019.  
(4) G.O.(Rt) No.888/2019/AGRI dated.27.09.2019.  
(5) Order No. ADFW/487/2020-TP2 Dated:08.05.2020.  
(6) G.O.(Rt)No.483/2020/AGRI dated 01.06.2020.  
(7) Order No. ADFW/487/2020-TP2 Dated:28.10.2020.  
(8) Order No. ADFW/487/2020-TP2 Dated:01.01.2021.  
(9) Order No. ADFW/487/2020-TP2 Dated:05.03.2021.  
(10) G.O.(Ms)No.14/2020/P&EA dated 18.05.2020.  
(11) G.O.(Rt)No.928/2020/LSGD dated 20.05.2020.  
(12) G.O.(Rt)No.1009/2020/LSGD dated 29/5/2020.  
(13) G.O.(Rt)No.478/2020/AGRI dated 31/5/2020.  
(14) Annual Plan 2020-21.  
(15) G.O.(Rt) No.393/2020/Agri dated.22/4/2020.

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**Order No. ADFW/3119/2021-TP2**

**Dated: 21.04.2021**

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Government of Kerala, have accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme 'Rice Development' during the year 2019-20 for an amount of Rs.7970.00 lakhs for components included in the Green Book vide reference 1<sup>st</sup> cited and for other new/modified components vide G.O cited 2 to 4 above. During 2020-21 Continuous Sanction was accorded for the ongoing components worth Rs.3484.00 lakh vide reference (5) cited, which was further modified vide references 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> cited above.

During the financial year 2021-22, there is a budget provision of Rs.11614.00 lakh for the scheme 'Rice Development' under head of account 2401-00-102-90 (P).

Components worth Rs.**8428.00** lakh is continuing during 2021-22 also, the details of which are given below.

**1) Group Farming**

The component is being implemented to achieve a rice based farming system approach based on group farming concept and scientific package of cultivation suited to each agro climatic condition. It aims at enhancing production and productivity and simultaneously bringing down cost of cultivation. The group farming activities in each padasekharam will be undertaken in each season in a co-ordinated manner as per an approved action plan prepared at Krishi Bhavan level.

**(a) Sustainable development of Rice (Rs.6073.00 lakh)**

An amount of Rs.6073.00 lakh is set apart for input assistance under sustainable rice development for 110418 Ha @ Rs.5500/Ha. The support for input assistance will be in the form of quality seeds, inputs (based on AEU based recommendations from Krishi Bhavan), and certification and bio control agents only.

**(b) Operational support for Group farming activities of padashekhara samithies (Rs.300.00 lakh)**

An amount of **Rs. 300.00 Lakh** is sanctioned for promoting group farming activities of active padashekhara samithis. The amount will be released to padashekhara samithis on a transparent criterion for promoting group farming and facilitating e-payment system. The Padasekhara Samithies have to be strengthened to encourage group activities by integrating state schemes for rice development, rice development projects of Local Self Governments & rice promotion schemes under RKVY. Consequent to the introduction of e-payment system of crediting subsidy to individual bank account of farmers, the availability of funds for group activities with Padasekhara Samithies are practically nil. In such a situation, operational support of Padasekhara Samithies is an inevitable item for the existence and functioning of Padasekhara Samithies. Hence an amount of Rs.300.00 lakhs is sanctioned as operational support to Padasekhara Samithies for group farming for 83,333.33 Ha @ Rs.360/Ha subject to a maximum of Rs.50,000/- padasekharam. The padasekharams having a minimum area of 5 ha alone will be considered for assistance under this programme.

The amount can be utilized for the following activities for the benefit of the individual farmers as group activities.

- a. Renewal of registration.
- b. Maintenance of accounts.
- c. Conducting group meetings, executive committee meetings etc.
- d. Office expenses for printing charges of forms, registers etc.
- e. Laying out of demonstration plots, erecting boards etc.
- f. Repair and maintenance of farm machineries and equipments.
- g. Hiring of machineries during peak seasons.
- h. Maintenance and repair of common bunds, channels etc.
- i. Expenses for the repair of bunds breached due to flood.
- j. Registered seed growers programme.
- k. Additional expenses for dewatering and irrigation.
- l. Selling the produce through Civil Supplies Corporation.
- m. Preparation of claims and statement for e-payment.
- n. Organizing seminars, campaigns, harvest melas with farmers participation, highlighting their achievements.
- o. Development of infrastructural facilities for Selected Group Farming Padasekharams in the Block Area.
- p. Mechanisation of tillage operations. Packing and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, pp chemicals and other inputs.

**(c) Project based support for Infrastructure Development of padashekharams including block level convergence and establishment of Rice Mills and Par boiling units (Rs.70.00 lakh)**

An amount of Rs.70.00 lakh is set apart for project based support for infrastructure development in padashekharams including block level convergence and establishment of rice mills and parboiling units.

The projects shall be prepared at the grama panchayat/ block level and submitted to the District level for sanction. The projects received will be vetted by two-level sanctioning committee namely the District Level Sanctioning Committee and the State Level Sanctioning Committee depending upon the total estimate of the project proposal. The constitution of the sanctioning committees are as follows:

***District level Sanctioning Committee***

Principal Agricultural Officer	-	Chairman
Project Director ATMA	-	Member
Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM)	-	Convenor
Assistant Director of Agriculture (concerned block)	-	Member
Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri)	-	Member
Expert from KAU/KVK (wherever possible)	-	Member

***State Level Sanctioning Committee***

Director of Agriculture	-	Chairman
Additional Director of Agriculture (Extension)	-	Member
Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)	-	Member
Additional Director of Agriculture (Plg)	-	Member
State Agricultural Engineer	-	Member
Joint Director of Agriculture (WM)	-	Convenor
Expert from KAU	-	Member

Assistance will be provided @ 50% for production oriented activities and 100% for infrastructure development activities. Existing norms will be followed for major components. However, relaxation of norms may be sanctioned by the Sanctioning Committee subject to justification. It shall be ensured that infrastructure development will benefit paddy cultivation and that the proposal is supported by estimate prepared as per Government approved norms. The District Level Sanctioning Committee will sanction project proposals up to Rs.5.00 lakh and projects above Rs.5.00 lakh will be recommended and forwarded to the State Level Sanctioning Committee for approval.

Assistance will also be provided for establishing Mini Rice mills and parboiling units to undertake local processing and distribution of rice and rice products in potential padasekharams. The aim is to process, brand and market the rice produced in each region, say Kuttanad, there itself, converting each area into self sustaining units. In areas where specialty rice varieties like Njavara are grown, special mini rice mills to process such rice varieties are also proposed to be established. Convergence with activities under RKVY, RIDF, other CSS and LSGD schemes should be ensured in undertaking infrastructure

development. Such interventions from seed to marketing of produce will fetch more income to the farmer. This component will be implemented on a project mode.

**Selection of beneficiaries** - Co-operatives, Padasekharasamithies, other registered groups and individual entrepreneurs recommended by padasekharasamithies are eligible beneficiaries of this component.

Rice mill proposals upto Rs.5.00 lakhs will be sanctioned by the District Committee and eligible proposals above Rs.5.00 lakhs will be scrutinized by District Committee and forwarded to State Committee with clear recommendations for approval.

**(D) Operational support to Paddy Development Agencies (Rs.30.00 lakh)**

Government of Kerala has constituted 10 Paddy Development Agencies for tackling the problems of rice cultivation in special problem areas. Financial assistance will be provided to the agencies for development of the problem areas for taking up location specific projects based on actual needs. During 2021-22, it is proposed to provide project based assistance to paddy development agencies for undertaking infrastructure development activities in padasekharams for promoting paddy cultivation, including administrative charges limited to 5% of the total project cost.

Assistance will be provided for need based, location specific infrastructure development activities in padasekharams like construction/ strengthening of field bunds, tractor ramps, deepening of irrigation / drainage channels, replacement of petty & para with vertical axial flow pumps, electrification, construction of drying yards, repair of motor shed, culverts etc. to promote paddy cultivation and increase production and productivity. An amount of **Rs.21.10 lakh** is sanctioned for this purpose. Administrative cost (5% of the project cost) comes to **Rs.1.10 lakh** which can be utilized for expenses involved in project implementation and also for day-to-day expenses of the agencies.

An amount of **Rs.4.80 lakh** is also set apart for meeting the honorarium to Vice Chairman of the agencies and **Rs.3.00 lakh** for meeting the sitting fee of the members (average 10 members/ agency).

Sl.No.	Item	Amount (Rs. In lakh)
1	Project based assistance	21.10
2	Administrative cost (5%)	1.10
3	Honorarium to Vice Chairman (Rs. 4000 per month x 12 x 10)	4.80
4	Sitting fee to members once in 2 months (Rs.500X10X6) X 10 agencies	3.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30.00</b>

An amount of **Rs.30.00 lakh** is proposed for this component.

## **2) Area Expansion**

### **(a) Conversion of Single Cropped Paddy Land to Double Cropped Land (Rs.50.00 lakh)**

In order to increase the land use efficiency and augment the production and productivity of paddy in the State, it is proposed to raise double crop of paddy in paddy lands where only single crop is taken. During the current financial year, it is proposed to bring 500 Ha single crop paddy lands into double crop by providing assistance @ Rs.10000/- per Ha, for filling critical gaps including infrastructure development. An amount of Rs.50.00 lakh is proposed to be utilized for this purpose.

### **(b) Upland Rice cultivation (Rs.55.00 lakh)**

Considering the limited area available under Wetlands for paddy cultivation, it is proposed to bring suitable uplands under paddy cultivation so as to increase the domestic production of paddy in the State. Since the land preparation and weed control for this type of cultivation is labour intensive, reasonable assistance has to be given to farmers for resorting to upland cultivation. It is proposed to promote and popularize upland rice cultivation throughout the State by providing assistance @ Rs.13,600/- ha, including free supply of seeds.

It is proposed to bring 404.41 **Ha** of upland under rice cultivation throughout the State during 2021-22 utilizing an amount of **Rs.55.00 lakh**. Emphasis will be given to the districts where there is more scope for upland cultivation like Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode.

High yielding varieties which are popular and identified for the region/district should be used for upland cultivation. The varieties suggested are Vaisakh, Red Thriveni, Uma, Annapoorna, Rohini, Suvarnamodan, Swarnaprabha, Mattatriveni, Jyothi, Harsha, Aiswarya, Culture C3-2, Swarnaprabha Sel-3, Chingam, Varsha, Karthika, Aruna, Makom, Revathi, Prathyasa, Sarada etc. Apart from these locally suitable local varieties can also be cultivated. The seeds of such varieties will be procured and supplied by Kerala State Seed Development Authority from National Seeds Corporation, Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and seed corporations of other states. Seeds can also be arranged through farmers' exchange. Department of Agriculture/Krishi Bhavan will facilitate to arrange seeds and other critical inputs for cultivation.

The scheme will be implemented through the Krishi Bhavans of the State. The farmers involved in the programme will be provided technical advice on upland rice cultivation practices through concerned Krishi Bhavans. The service of scientists of KAU shall be utilized wherever possible. The assistance from Local Self Government Institutions can also be integrated with this programme. The labourers from MNREGS can also be utilized wherever possible. Farm mechanization can also be resorted to in order to reduce the cost of cultivation for which machinery from Agro Service Centres and Karshika Karma Senas of the state can be utilised. The assistance to the farmers should be extended by crediting the subsidy amount into the bank account of the concerned beneficiaries. The details of expenses incurred by the farmer for undertaking upland cultivation should be submitted to



the Agricultural Officers of Krishi Bhavan in order to claim the subsidy to the individual farmers.

**At block level the Assistant Director of Agriculture will co-ordinate and supervise the programme and at district level the Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM) will be in charge of the programme. At the state level the Addl. Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor and review the progress of implementation.**

#### **(c) Promotion of Specialty Rice (Rs.50.00 lakh)**

It is envisaged to promote and encourage the cultivation of traditional specialty rice varieties of Kerala like Pokkali, Njavara, Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala under this scheme. Basmati cultivation will also be promoted since it is highly profitable. In order to motivate farmers to undertake cultivation of special rice varieties, which have high relevance in GI registry, it is proposed to provide incentive @ Rs.10,000/ha.

Target proposed for cultivation of special rice varieties is 500 ha during 2021-22 with a financial outlay of **Rs.50.00 lakhs**. The recommended varieties and areas proposed for implementation are Pokkali, Njavara, Basmati, Jeerakasala & Gandhakasala.

#### **Pokkali Rice**

Among the Specialty Rice varieties of Kerala 'Pokkali rice' is a traditional saline resistant rice variety which is cultivated in an organic manner in the coastal regions of Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Thrissur districts. Paddy cultivation is practised in Pokkali tracts during the low saline phase starting from June to early November and prawn farming is practiced during the high saline phase of mid November to mid April. The organic Pokkali rice is famous for its special taste and high protein content. Since the tidal flows make the field highly fertile, no other manure or fertilizer need to be applied to the crop and hence it is naturally organic. In order to survive in the waterlogged fields, the rice plants usually grow up to a height of 2 meters. But as they mature, they bend over and collapse with only the panicles standing upright. Harvesting takes place in the month of October. Only the panicles are cut and the rest of stalks are left to decay in the water which is the feed for the prawns that start arriving in November – December. Cultivation of Pokkali rice will be promoted in the districts of Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Thrissur.

#### **Njavara Rice**

It is a unique indigenous rice cultivar of the state having medicinal properties. This rice variety has got immense potentiality in our indigenous system of medicines generally used in Njavara kanji and Njavara Kizhi. Cultivation of Njavara is generally centered in the northern districts of the State. Cultivation of Njavara rice will be promoted in the districts of Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad and Kannur.

#### **Basmati Rice**

Combining the quality features of traditional varieties and yield potential of high yielding semi dwarf varieties, basmati varieties are suited to be cultivated in all parts of India. Basmati is grown during summer months to get right aroma. Promotion of Basmati rice will be done with the help of selected padasekhara samithies, SHGs, Kudumbasree units and NGOs. Since basmati rice fetch premium price the income of the farmer will be sustainable.

### **Jeerakasala and Gandhakashala**

Farmers of Wayanad district follow a distinct traditional practice of raising ordinary red kernelled indica type for daily consumption and scented rice for the preparation of special dishes. In Wayanad district, Kalpetta, Panamaram, Sultan Bathery and Mananthavady are the main areas where farmers including tribal people cultivate scented rice varieties like jeerakasala & gandhakasala. These varieties are very popular due to its good taste and aroma. Climate of this area is also suitable for growing scented rice varieties. However lack of financial support has resulted in the area under cultivation coming down over the years. During 2021-22 Jeerakasala and Gandhakasala cultivation will be promoted in Wayanad district as a part of promoting indigenous high value paddy varieties.

In addition to the above mentioned specialty rice, other special varieties like Rakthashali and other traditional varieties will also be promoted.

Assistance for Specialty Rice Cultivation will be @Rs.10,000/ha.

**Target proposed for cultivation of special rice varieties is 500 Ha during 2021-22 with a total financial allocation of Rs.50.00 lakh. Out of this an amount of Rs.20.00 lakh is earmarked specially for cultivation of specialty rice in Wayanad district.**

**Area expansion programmes shall be implemented in cooperation with LSGD institutions, PACS and MNREGS.**

### **3. Royalty to owners of cultivable Paddy (Rs.1500.00 lakh)**

Considering the pivotal role of paddy land conservation in environment protection and food security, Government of Kerala, have accorded sanction for the payment of “**Royalty**” to **the owners** of cultivable paddy land for conserving cultivable paddy lands vide GO cited 6<sup>th</sup> above. Such a support is also recommended in the Agricultural Policy of the State. As mentioned earlier, the role of paddy land in ecosystem conservation are multifold – water conservation, provide living habitat for various species of flora and fauna, conservation of natural enemies of pests and diseases and carbon sequestration to name a few. New farming practices on AEU basis need to stress on these aspects.

Thus, considering the role of paddy fields in Ecosystem Service (ESS) an amount of Rs.1500.00 lakh has been set apart during 2021-22 as “**Royalty**” to **the owners of cultivable paddy** @ Rs.2000/Ha for conserving cultivable paddy lands. A total area of 75000 Ha of paddy area will be benefited by the implementation of this component.

An owner will be eligible to avail this incentive only once and no repeated distribution of incentive will be allowed.

### **4. Subhiksha Keralam – additional allocation (Rs.300.00 lakh)**

Subhiksha Keralam scheme initiated during the previous financial year for ensuring food security in the state of Kerala in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic will be continued during the current financial year also. One of the major programmes included in this scheme is fallow land cultivation. In order to increase rice production in the State, it is important to revive paddy cultivation in paddy lands kept fallow. An amount of Rs.300.00 lakh is set apart for providing financial assistance for fallow land cultivation @ Rs.40000/Ha

(Rs.35000/Ha for cultivator + Rs.5000/Ha for land owner) as per GO cited 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> above.

### Abstract of Components

The component wise breakup is summarized as follows :

Sl. No.	Components	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
<b>1</b>	<b>Group Farming</b>	
a	Sustainable Rice Development (Input assistance @ Rs.5500/ha) -	6073.00
b	Operational support to Padasekhara Samithies for Group Farming	300.00
c	Project based support for infrastructure development of Padashekharams including block level convergence and establishment of rice mills and par boiling units	70.00
c	Operational support to Paddy Development Agencies	30.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Area expansion</b>	
a	Assistance for raising double crop in single cropped paddy	50.00
b	Upland Rice cultivation	55.00
c	Promotion of Specialty Rice	50.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Royalty to owners of cultivable paddy land</b>	1500.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Subhiksha Keralam – additional allocation</b>	300.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8428.00</b>

**(Rupees Eighty four crore and twenty eight lakh only)**

In the circumstances mentioned above, continuous administrative sanction is hereby issued for implementation of ongoing components of the scheme 'Rice Development' during 2021-22 for an amount of **Rs.8428.00 lakhs (Rupees Eighty four crore and twenty eight lakh only)**, as per the above statement, debiting expenditure to head of account **2401-00-102-90 (Plan)** from current years' budget provision of Rs.11614.00 lakhs. The scheme shall be implemented abiding by the terms and conditions stipulated in the Government Orders read above.

As per G.O read as reference (15) above, fund allocation for schemes have to be provided AEU wise. Accordingly, implementing sections at the Directorate of Agriculture will provide AEU wise fund allocation while issuing working instructions for the scheme.

Monthly progress report should invariably contain component wise physical and financial targets and achievements and the stage of implementation of each component. Since the Government is giving emphasis to women participation and gender budgeting, maximum efforts have to be made to include women beneficiaries in the scheme. The number of women beneficiaries and the amount utilized for such beneficiaries (component wise) should also be separately shown in the monthly progress report.

Sd/-  
**DR.K.VASUKI IAS**  
**DIRECTOR**

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To

TA Section for issue of detailed working instructions

Copy to

TA to Director of Agriculture,

CA to All Additional Directors of Agriculture of the HQ,

State Agricultural Engineer, Senior Finance Officer for information

IT section of the directorate for posting on the website

*Chai - di*  
Deputy Director of Agriculture (Pigeon)  
Directorate of Agriculture  
Thiruvananthapuram