

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2021-2022- **Scheme for Promotion of Pulses & Tubers - H.o.A. 2401-00-112-96 P** - Working Instructions issued- reg.

Ref:- 1. G.O. (Rt.) No. 500/2021/AGRI dated 16/06/2021
2. G.O. (Rt.) No. 568/2021/AGRI dtated 05/07/2021

In the annual plan 2021-22, there is a budget provision of Rs. 243 Lakh for the scheme "Promotion of Pulses & Tubers". Accordingly, Government have accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme for an amount of Rs. 150 Lakh vide order 1st cited, under the head of account 2401-00-112-96 (P) subject to the condition that focus will be given to the Onattukara region. Similarly, as per the reference 2nd cited, Government has also accorded administrative sanction for the implementation of the component 'Subhiksha Keralam' for Promotion of Pulses and Tubers at a total cost of Rs. 93 lakh. Accordingly, the working instructions are issued for the implementation of the components Promotion of Pulses and Subhiksha Keralam under the scheme Promotion of Pulses and Tubers for an amount of Rs. 153 lakh during 2021-22 as detailed below. Separate working instructions will be issued for the balance amount of Rs. 90 lakh for the component development of tubers.

A. Development of Pulses

The major food crops of our state comprise paddy and pulses. But many of the indigenous varieties are seldom available indicating the loss of biodiversity. One of the main, reasons for such loss of germplasm attributed by the farmer is the high cost of labour and inputs and situations aggravated by the drastic changes in the climate. Pulses are the important source of protein to the mankind. But the area under pulses cultivation has been declining consistently over the last several years.

Objectives:-

The main objectives of the scheme are the following.

- To promote pulses cultivation in the traditional pulse growing tracts of the

state to bring back the original status of production

- To increase the income from farming by way of utilizing the rice fallows after the second and third crop.
- To serve as the catch crop in paddy fields after cultivation.
- To enrich the soil with rhizobium and organic matter by way of cultivating leguminous crops.
- To promote fodder cowpea in summer rice fallows to ensure nutritive feed for the cattle utilizing residual soil moisture and also replenish soil fertility

Crops proposed

The crops proposed for the programme are Black gram, Cow pea, French bean, Green gram, Horse gram, Red gram and Soya Bean.

Management of the crop

Suitable management practices as per the Package of Practices of Kerala Agricultural University would be followed for maximizing yield and thereby income. Seed treatment with Rhizobium would also be carried out. The crop residues after harvest would be ploughed in to the field for nutrient enrichment.

The main season of planting would be summer season where the rice fallows could be utilized. However, for cowpea when grown as a rainfed crop, the season would be the month of June. But the crop can be grown throughout the season. Cow pea could be sown as a fringe crop during the second crop season also. But since this programme aims mainly at increasing the production, growing cowpea as pure crop is suggested. French beans are proposed for the high altitude regions such as Attappady hills of Palakkad region. The main cropping season suggested for the programme is during the summer season.

Assistance

The crucial input regarding pulses cultivation is the seeds. It is estimated that about Rs. 50,000/- is required for cultivating an area of one hectare including the cost of