

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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CIRCULAR

Sub:- Agriculture Department- Rice Development Scheme 2022-23- Registered Seed Growers Programme (RSGP) - Target assigned- Guidelines issued – reg.

Ref:- 1) G.O.(Rt) No. 671/2022/AGRI dated 26.07.2022
2) Endt No.ADFW/3579/2022-TP(2) dated 29.07.2022

As per the reference 1st cited, Administrative Sanction has been accorded for the Scheme on Rice Development during 2022-23 and an amount of Rs.125.00 lakh has been earmarked under the Head of Account 2401-00-102-90 (Plan) for implementation of Registered Seed Grower's Programme .

An amount of Rs.125.00 lakh for implementation of Registered Seed Grower's Programme is assigned as assistance to Kerala State Seed Development Authority (KSSDA). KSSDA will co-ordinate the seed production, seed processing, seed procurement and seed distribution in Kerala and will co-ordinate the activities from foundation seed production in State Seed Farms to certified seed production by Registered seed growers. This amount will be set apart for meeting the foundation seed cost and the remaining fund will be utilized for items such as miscellaneous expenses including cost of gunny bags required for packing processed paddy seeds, transportation, loading, unloading etc.

Seed is the critical input necessary for enhancing crop production and productivity, hence the use of good quality seeds by the farmers has to be ensured. Farmers usually prefer good quality seeds raised in their region. These seeds which are suited to the region are preferred to seeds obtained from totally different regions. The Registered Seed Growers' Programme (RSGP) will be implemented during 2022-23 in order to meet the requirement of certified seeds in the state. Existing rules and norms for the scheme will be followed. KSSDA will coordinate the activities such as Foundation seed production in State Seed Farms and certified production by Registered seed growers.

Objectives of the programme:

- To increase the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) to 50% by ensuring timely supply of quality paddy seeds to the farmers.
- Supply of foundation seeds free of cost to the Registered seed Growers.
- To produce quality certified paddy seeds.

- To involve more farmers into cultivating paddy crop
- Ensure lucrative price for the procured paddy seed to the Registered Seed Growers.
- To cultivate paddy seeds of different varieties needed by the rice farmers of Kerala.

Registered Seed Growers Programme will be implemented in 2500 hectares in the State with the co-operation of the Kerala Agricultural University, State Seed Production Centres, Krishi Bhavans and farmers of registered Padashekhara Samithies at Panchayat level. Foundation seeds are produced in various state seed production centres from the breeder seeds obtained from Kerala Agricultural University. Under the programme Foundation seeds will be supplied free of cost to registered seed growers for the production of certified seeds, which can be distributed to farmers.

Assistance for RSGP seed distribution

The programme will be implemented through KSSDA based on the targets assigned to each district. The foundation seeds will be supplied free of cost to the Registered Farmers for a total area of 2500 Ha. The foundation seeds are taken from the State Seed Farms of the Department.

The district wise targets assigned under Registered Seed Growers Programme (RSGP) 2022-23 as follows.

Table-1. District wise target for Virippu and Mundakan 2022-23

| District | Virippu Area (ha) | Mundakan/ Puncta Area (ha) | Total Area (ha) |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Palakkad | 295 | 1725 | 2020 |
| Thrissur | | 330 | 330 |
| Ernakulam | | 30 | 30 |
| Malappuram | | 90 | 90 |
| Kannur | | 30 | 30 |
| Total | 295 | 2205 | 2500 |

Table-2. District wise, Variety wise Target for RSGP 2022-23

| District | Variety | Virippu(ha) | Mundakan/Punja (ha) | Total (ha) |
|----------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Palakkad | Uma | 288 | 1650 | 1938 |
| | Jyothi | 7 | 75 | 82 |
| | Total | 295 | 1725 | 2020 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thrissur | Jyothi | | 165 | 165 |
| | Uma | | 165 | 165 |
| | Total | | 330 | 330 |
| Malappuram | Uma | | 80 | 80 |
| | Aathira | | 10 | 10 |
| | Total | | 90 | 90 |
| Ernakulam | Uma | | 30 | 30 |
| Kannur | Uma | | 30 | 30 |
| | Total | 295 | 2205 | 2500 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 295 | 2205 | 2500 |

Principal Agricultural Officers of Palakkad, Thrissur, Malappuram, Ernakulam and Kannur should take urgent action to re-allot Krishi Bhavan wise variety wise targets for implementation of RSGP during 2022-23 as per the district targets given in Table-2. Seed indent with variety wise requirement of paddy seeds and date of supply may be informed directly to Kerala State Seed Development Authority, Thrissur.

The seed cost of foundation seeds for certified seed production/certified seed distribution to farmers may be met by KSSDA utilizing the fund provisions during the current year. KSSDA should furnish monthly progress reports with detailed physical and financial achievements to Additional Director of Agriculture(CP) before 5th of every month. The assigned targets should be achieved so as to maintain the SRR of the State, hence district level meetings, awareness trainings and regular monitoring should be conducted utilizing the fund set apart for this purpose.

Financial outlay:

1. Cost of foundation seeds:

| Season | Area(ha) | Seed rate (kg/ha) | Foundation seed requirement (MT) | Rate Rs/kg | Total cost (Rs in lakh) |
|----------|----------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| Virippu | 295 | 80 | 23.60 | 40 | 9.44 |
| Mundakan | 2205 | 80 | 176.40 | 40 | 70.56 |
| Total | 2500 | | 200 | | 80 |

2. Training expenses:

| Sl. no. | No. of trainings | No. of participants | Amount/training (Rs) | Total amount (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 11 | 50 | 20,000 | 2.20 |

3. The balance fund of Rs. 42.80 lakh will be utilized for items such as cost of gunny bags (30kg bags) required for packing processed paddy seeds, transportation, loading, unloading etc.

Implementation

- Registered Seed Growers Programme will be implemented by the Agricultural officers of the Krishi Bhavan.
- Kerala State Seed Development Authority will be the nodal agency for implementing the programme and for procurement and distribution of seeds.
- Foundation seeds will be distributed free of cost to the farmers for multiplication under Registered Seed Growers Programme by KSSDA.
- Individual Farmers can register up to 2 hectares. If the area exceeds 2 ha, registration may be permitted only in favour of the concerned Padasekhara Samithy.
- The padasekhara samithy/ individual farmer should register as a 'Registered Grower' by remitting Rs.25/- under the head of account "0401-800-84-other services and services fees" through treasury chalan. Application for registration in the prescribed form along with the treasury challan should be submitted to the State Seed Certification Agency, the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP), Directorate of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare, Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram-695033.
- Padasekhara Samithy will take annual membership with Kerala State Seed Development Authority by remitting the fee Rs.2000/- and Rs.10/- for application form and execute an agreement with the latter. In case of individual farmer the fee to be remitted is Rs.500/- and Rs.10/- respectively.
- The Agricultural Officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan should ensure that the registered seed growers adopt all the scientific cultivation practices, in the area selected for seed production programme. Care should be taken to see that proper isolation distance is maintained and timely roguing of off types is done.
- Assistance under this programme will be provided for transplanted crop only.
- Training to farmers and officials will be conducted.
- Additional Director of Agriculture, KSSDA will arrange to conduct necessary trainings to the padasekhara samithy and officers based on need. The training schedule should be chalked out by the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority in consultation with the Principal

Agricultural Officers well in advance of programme implementation.

- The Agricultural officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan shall be personally responsible for giving guidance to the farmers and shall ensure adherence, by the farmer, of recommended processes and practices.
- Block level Assistant Director of Agriculture is the designated Seed Inspector and should conduct three field inspection at particular time intervals as detailed below:

| Variety | 1st | 2 nd | 3 rd |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Short duration | Within 60 DAS | Within 85 DAS | Within 100 DAS |
| Medium duration | Within 80 DAS | Within 100 DAS | Within 125 DAS |
| Long duration | Within 90 DAS | Within 125 DAS | Within 150 DAS |
| | (DAS- Days After Sowing) | | |

- The Assistant Director of Agriculture should inspect the field and furnish the dated inspection report in the prescribed format.
- The Agricultural Officer will ensure that proper drying and pre cleaning of harvested paddy is done before the drawal of seed samples by the Assistant Director of Agriculture.
- The Agricultural Officer should inspect the field once in two weeks and the assigned Agricultural Assistants of concerned areas should strictly inspect the field once a week.
- The Agricultural Officers and one Agricultural Assistant should accompany the concerned Assistant Director of Agriculture to the field implementing RSGP for taking seed samples.
- The crop cutting experiments by Statistics department should be ensured in RSGP plots during which Agricultural Officer should be physically present in the concerned paddy field.
- As envisaged in the Seed Act (1966), the Seed Inspector, (the Assistant Director of Agriculture) should inspect the seed lot produced by the registered seed growers and draw samples. The Assistant Director of Agriculture should furnish the following certificate.

- o 'Certified that(name), ADA of Block has drawnNo. of samples from No. of lots kept at the premises of Sri..... (Name and address) on(date and time) in the presence of(witness).
- o Guidelines for drawal and dispatch of seed samples are given in Annexure-I
- o Senior Seed Analyst will conduct the testing of the certification samples within 15 days of receipt of samples and furnish the results of standard samples to the concerned Seed Inspector with a copy to the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority within 30 days on receipt of sample. Seed inspectors will furnish all the required details (Application in prescribed proforma, chalan, sowing report, three field inspection reports, original seed sample analysis reports of both standard and nonstandard samples) to the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) for getting certification tag for the particular quantity of seed to be procured.
- o On receipt of all the required details for the issue of certification tag, the certification agency viz, the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will issue the same within 10 days of receipt of the requisition from the Seed Inspector. The Certificate of Registration will be communicated to the concerned Seed Inspector, the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority and the Principal Agricultural Officer of the district.
- o Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority immediately after getting the Certification Tag Number, will arrange the processing of the procured seed at the processing centre, packing and lifting of the certified seed with necessary labeling. The Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority in consultation with the concerned Principal Agricultural Officers will see that the certified seed produced in the district will be distributed to meet the demand of that particular district and then only will be transported to the godown/ware house as the case may be.
- o The stock will be immediately lifted by the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority either to the Krishi Bhavan on demand and make the payments to the Padasekhara Samithy.
- o On receipt of certified seed in Krishi Bhavan, the concerned Agricultural Officers should ensure the viability of the seed by conducting germination test

before distribution to farmers. Complaints in respect of the viability of the seed should be informed to KSSDA within 10 days of receipt of the seed.

- The Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM) is the district level nodal officer of the RSGP. The Principal Agricultural Officer and Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM) should conduct random field inspection to the tune of 10% and 25% respectively. The Deputy Director of Agriculture (YP) should inspect the Foundation Seed Production Programme conducted in the Departmental Seed Farms.
- The above guide lines are applicable to seed production programme in Departmental Seed Farms also. Since the quality of the FS II Seed produced in the Seed Farms decide the quality of certified seed produced by Registered Seed Growers, utmost care should be taken in the production of Foundation Seed. The concerned Deputy Director of Agriculture (YP) and Principal Agricultural Officers should issue proper instructions to officers in charge of State Seed Farms, for the proper handling of Foundation Seed from production till distribution.
- Since Seed is declared as an Essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, the seed produced and distributed under RSGP should possess the assured quality for which the above guidelines should compulsorily be adhered to.
- The benefits under RSGP will be provided without limitation of area of the individual beneficiary

Since Seed multiplication procedures play an important role in deciding the quality of seed, utmost care should be taken at all levels of seed production which may reflect in the ultimate crop yield.

Monitoring and evaluation:

At the State level, the programme will be implemented by the Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority. Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will be the monitoring authority at the State level and will be issuing certification tags for quality seeds. Deputy Director of Agriculture(WM) is the district level nodal officer of the RSGP programme. Principal Agricultural Officers and Deputy Director of Agriculture (WM) will conduct random inspections in the field of farmers as well as in the State Seed Farms where the foundation seeds are produced.

Anticipated benefits to farmers

By implementing the project in 2500 Ha, approximately 12500 MT good quality paddy seeds can be made available to farmers, which can be cultivated in an area of 1,56,250 ha. An anticipated production of 5.50 lakh MT paddy can be ensured. The registered seed growers will get an assured source of income without waiting for the mercy of intermediaries.

ANNEXURE – 1

(Schedule 1 of the Seeds (Control) Order 1983)

Sealing, Fastening, Dispatch and Analysis of Samples

I. Manner of taking samples

Samples of any seed for the purpose of analysis shall be taken in a clean dry container which shall be closed sufficiently tight to prevent leakage and entrance of moisture and shall be carefully sealed.

II. Sampling Intensity

Bulk sampling- when sampling seed lots are stored in bulk (heaps, bins, wagons etc) the following sampling intensity should be regarded as a minimum requirement for obtaining the "bulk sample"

- a. Upto 500 kilograms – at least 5 individual samples except in case of small lots upto 50 kilograms where a smaller number of samples is sufficient, not less than 3 samples need be taken.
- b. 501 to 3000 kilograms- one individual sample for each 300 kilograms, but not less than 5 individual samples.
- c. 3001 to 20,000 kilograms- one individual sample for each 500 kilograms, but not less than 10 individual samples.

For seed in bulk the individual samples should be distributed at random all over the bulk and the samples drawn from varying depths.

Bag sampling – For seed lots in bags or other containers the following sampling intensity should be regarded as a minimum requirement.

- d. Upto 5 containers- sample each container but always take at least 5 individual samples.
- e. From 6 to 30 containers- sample at least one in every three containers but never less than 5.
- f. 31 containers or more – sample at least one in every five containers but never less than 10.

Unless doubt exists about the homogeneity of a lot, all such primary samples should be combined a composite sample of the lot for submitting to the seed testing laboratory. If the individual or primary samples are not sufficiently homogenous, they may be sent to the laboratory for a heterogeneity test.

III. Containers to be labeled and addressed - All containers containing samples for analysis shall be properly labeled and the parcels shall be properly addressed. The label on any sample of seed sent for analysis shall bear-

- a. Serial number
- b. Name of the sender with official designation, if any;
- c. Name of the person from whom the sample has been taken;
- d. Date and place of taking the sample;
- e. Kind or variety of the seed for analysis;
- f. Nature and quantity of preservative, if any, added to the sample

IV. Manner of packing, fastening and sealing the samples - All samples of seeds sent for analysis shall be packed, fastened and sealed in the following manner.

- a. The stopper shall first be securely fastened so as to prevent leakage of the containers in transit.
- b. The containers shall then be completely wrapped in fairly strong thick paper. The ends of the paper shall be neatly folded in and affixed by means of gum or other adhesive.
- c. The paper cover shall be further secured by means of strong twine or thread both above and across the container, and the twine or thread shall then be fastened on the Paper cover by means of sealing wax on which there shall be at least four distinct and clear impressions of the seal of the sender, of which, one shall be at the top of the packet, one at the bottom and the other two on the body of the packet. The knots of the twine or thread shall be covered by means of sealing wax bearing the impression of the seal of the tender.

ANNEXURE – II

Form-I Form of Sowing Report

Year: Season:

- 1 Name and Address of the producer :

- 2 Name and address of the Grower :

- 3 Location of the Farm :

- a. Village :

- b. Block :
- c. Taluk :
- 4 Crop :
- a. Variety :
- b. Area :
- 5 Class of Seed to be produced :
- 6 Quantity of seeds used Kg/Ha :
- 7 Source of Seed :
- 8 Tag No (of item 07) :
- 9 Purchase of Bill No.& Date :
- 10 Date of Sowing :

Signature of the Grower Signature of the producer/Agricultural Officer Enclosures:

1. Tag for source of seed
2. Purchase bill of grower

Assistant Director of Agriculture

ANNEXURE - X

FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

Season

REPORT No. I, II, III

- 1 Seed Certification No. :
- 2 Report No.& stage of crop :
- 3 Kind and Variety :
- 4 Date of inspection :
- 5 Class of seed used :
- 6 Time of inspection :
- 7 Date of sowing :
- 8 Area Registered/ Inspected :
- 9 Isolated or Not Isolated :

10 Field counts :

Factors of Inspection (Paddy)

No.of count %of Weed spices % off Type

Average

11. Seed Farm Map:

Signature of the Producer Signature of the SCO**

** (Must be signed by the Assistant Director of Agriculture authorized)

PROFORMA

(To be submitted with seed analytical report for seed certification)

- 1 Name of Krishi Bhavan/ Seed farm/ Block :
- 2 Name of crop :
- 3 Variety & Area sown :
- 4 Name of the farmer/Padasekharam/State Seed Farm/**with contact no:/ e-mail address** of concerned Agricultural Officer/ Assistant Director of Agriculture
- 5 Total No.of farmers involved :
- 6 Source of seed used :
- 7 Class of Seed used for multiplication :
- 8 Reg. Fee Remittance of chalan particulars :
- 9 Date of sowing :
- 10 Date of first field inspection :
- 11 Date of second field inspection :
- 12 Date of third field inspection :
- 13 Dates on which rouging done :

- 14 Problems noted during the seed production/ pest/disease attack/ :
natural calamity etc.

- 15 Measures adopted to control/extend of damage :

- 16 Date of harvest :

- 17 Quantity of pre-cleaned seed produced :

- 18 Date of processing :

- 19 Number of lots and lot Nos. :

- 20 Date on which sample taken for analysis :

- 21 No.of samples taken for analysis :

- 22 Name and designation of the officer drawing sample :

- 23 Date on which sample sent for analysis :

- 10 No. of samples sent to lab :
- 10
- 24

- 25 Date of test result :

- 26 Date of receipt of test result from the lab :

- 27 No.of samples reported standard :

- 28 No.of samples reported sub standard :

- 29 Lab test report Nos & Name of the lab :

- 30 Date of seed analysis report sent to certification agency :

31 Quantity offered for certification :

32 Remarks :

Certificate

Certified that the seed multiplication procedure has been carried out as per the Seeds Act 1966 and the guidelines communicated from the Director of Agriculture.


Place : Agricultural Officer

Date : Office

Dated signature of the Assistant Director of Agriculture

sd/-

**SUBHASH T.V. IAS
DIRECTOR**



To: 1) Additional Director of Agriculture, Kerala State Seed Development Authority

Copy to: 2) All Principal Agricultural Officers

3) All Farm Officers

4) All Assistant Directors of Agriculture

5) TA to the Director

6) CAs to all Additional Directors of Agriculture

7) IT Cell for publishing in Website

Joint Director of Agriculture (WM)
Directorate of Agriculture
Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram-33