

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2023-24 - Scheme "Coconut Development - Seednut procurement & Seedling production as part of Coconut Council Programme" - Working Instructions issued - reg.

Ref:- 1) GO(Rt) No. 535/2023/AGRI dated: 01.06.2023

2) ADFW/4619/2023-TP(2) dated: 11.05.2023

Production and distribution of quality coconut seedlings are unique to the Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare Department of Kerala. The scheme entitled "Coconut Development – Seed-nut procurement & Seedling production as part of Coconut Council Programme" sanctioned by the Government as per Ref.1 is meant for the production and distribution of quality seedlings of different coconut varieties.

The following instructions are issued for the smooth implementation of the programme to meet the objective of procuring of required seed nuts and production of seedlings for the distribution among the needy farmers at a subsidised price.

In the Annual Plan 2023-24, a budget provision of Rs.6598 lakh is earmarked for the scheme "Coconut Development" under H/A 2401-00-103-87 Plan. As per reference (1) Government of Kerala have accorded Administrative Sanction for the scheme component "Seednut procurement & Seedling production as part of Coconut Council Programme" for an amount of Rs.1412 lakh under H/A 2401-00-103-87 Plan with the following sub components.

1. Procurement of West Coast Tall (WCT) seed nuts

(a). A total of 14.00 lakh WCT seed nuts at Rs. 70.00 per nut are to be procured during this financial year. The procurement season shall synchronise with December, 2023 to May 2024 as per the scientific package of practices approved / deemed as approved by the Department.

(b). Seed nuts can be procured from the identified, tagged and healthy WCT coconut mother palms from the farmers' fields as well as Government farms. The selected mother palms shall strictly have all the qualities as specified in the latest '**Package of Practices**' published by the Kerala Agricultural University. Farmers' gardens with the record of consistently high yield and following scientific average management practices shall only be selected for the procurement of seed nuts. The mother palms shall be healthy and free from pest and disease incidence.

(c). Seed Development Unit (SDU), Vadakara shall undertake the process of procurement of WCT seed nuts from the Kozhikode district, SDU, Chavakkad shall undertake the process for Thrissur district and T x D unit, Chalode shall undertake the

activities for Kannur and Kasaragod districts.

(d). The Agricultural Assistants / Supervisory staff engaged on contract basis for the identification and selection of mother palms of WCT shall start the procedures as per the 'Package Practices' of KAU without any delay. They shall identify suitable mother palms in the farmers' field as well as Government farms. The identified mother palms shall be first marked with chalks by them. Care shall be taken to see that under no circumstances ineligible mother palms would be selected. The selected mother palms shall be inspected by the concerned Agricultural Officers for finalisation. If the marked palms are found of not possessing the specified quality, they shall summarily be rejected. If the rejection status increases beyond 10%, the official who selected the palm shall be issued with a memo for explanation and upon finding fault with him, proper disciplinary proceeding shall be initiated at the appropriate level.

(e). The finally selected mother palms shall be marked in definite pattern for their easy identification and making it tamper proof. The mother palms shall be marked with a permanent '**Bright Yellow**' band of 5 cm thick at a height of 1.5 m from the base of the tree.

(f). A register for the mother palms shall be maintained at the implementing units without fail. All details of the palms, garden, farmer, geo-tag etc., shall be included with date of selection and details of harvest and procurement. The entries shall be attested by the field staff as well as the supervisory official.

(g). The implementing unit shall serially number the plots containing the mother palms. The palms shall be numbered based on the plot numbers in the format- Palm No. / Plot no. in a conspicuous manner in '**Bright Red**' colour. The expenses in connection with marking of the mother palms can be met from this scheme component. The maximum rate admissible is Rs. 8.00 per palm for the painting works excluding the cost of materials. The materials shall be procured supplied by the head of implementation unit by observing Store Purchase Rules.

(h). All the identification and marking of the mother palms shall be completed before 30 November, 2023 without fail. Inspections shall be carried out by the field level officers to assure that the mother palms are maintained healthy during this period.

(i). The harvesting of the seed nuts shall start with the onset of December. Care shall be taken to harvest the bunches which are above 11 months old and they are to be lowered using ropes. No impact scars on nuts are allowed while selecting them for procurement. Harvesting for seed nut shall be completed before 31st May, 2024. It is expected that 2 to 3 rounds of harvest might take place during this period. A maximum of 10 seeds nuts shall be selected per mother palm for the first round and 10-15 each during the rest of the rounds. A minimum of 30 days interval shall be observed between harvests. However, the fund for meeting the cost of seed nuts procured up to 31st March, 2024 shall

be met from the current year's (2023-24) budget provision. It is clarified that the harvesting and procurement of seed nuts shall continue for rest of the months and the corresponding cost is to be met from the coming year's (2024-25) budget provision. Necessary entries shall be carried out in the registers by the Agricultural Assistants / Supervisory staff on contract basis engaged for the procurement of the seed-nuts.

(j). The criteria as prescribed by the Kerala Agricultural University as per their published 'Package of Practices' shall only be followed for the selection of seed nuts.

(k). For the selection of seed nuts the service of a skilled labour trained for the purpose can be utilised. The selected nuts shall be sealed with the specified mark and hammer used for the purpose. An amount of maximum Rs. 3.00 per nut is admissible for meeting the cost in this regard and the required amount can be debited from this scheme provision.

(l). The sealing shall be legible and shall be done at the distal end of the nut. Seed nuts with non-legible marks shall be rejected. If a sealed seed nut is to be rejected for any reason, the sealing mark shall be scored out by an 'X' mark using any sharp tools.

(m). Storing of the seed nuts shall be in accordance with the 'Package of Practices' published by KAU. Nuts with no coconut water inside shall be rejected.

(n). The qualified seed nuts in all aspects shall be transported to the departmental farms where they are intended to be sown for raising the seedlings. The cost of meeting the transportation of the same shall be met from the scheme provision and allocation of funds are provided as per Annexure IV of this circular. Store Purchase Rules shall be observed for transportation if private vehicles are used for the purpose.

(o). The farm heads shall inspect the seed nuts for meeting specification as stated above and the nuts falling below the standards shall be rejected.

(p). The farm heads shall ensure that, the funds available under this scheme for the nursery expenses are to be expended first before availing funds from 2401-00-104-91 (P), the State scheme on production and distribution of planting materials.

(q). The rate at which the WCT seed nuts are to be procured is Rs. 70.00 per nut and amount shall be disbursed to the farmers as e-payment.

(r). The procurement cost of WCT seed nuts shall be met from the schemes 'Establishment of Regional Coconut Nursery 50% CSS 2022-23 and from Coconut Development Scheme 2023-24 under H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan. The procurement target of 4.75273 lakh WCT nuts @ RS.22/nut and the financial allocation of Rs.104.56 lakh is already communicated from this office vide circular ADFW/1332/2023-TH2 dated 3/5/2023. Balance fund @Rs.48/seednut for 4.75273 lakh WCT nuts and Rs.70/nut for 9.24727 lakh WCT seed-nuts shall be met from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan. The targets are given as *Annexure I* of this circular.

2. Procurement of seed nuts of dwarf coconut varieties.

(a). The dwarf coconut mother palms shall be identified by the Agricultural

Assistants of the Krishibhavan and selected by the respective Agricultural Officers / AFOs. Only Chowghat Orange Dwarf (COD), Chowghat Green Dwarf (CGD), Malayan Yellow Dwarf (MYD) and Malayan Orange Dwarf (MOD) are to be selected and the mother plants shall be true-to-type. The characteristics of the dwarf coconut palms shall be assessed based on the 'Monograph on Coconut' published by the Kerala Agricultural University.

(b). The instructions 1 (d) to (p) is applicable for the procurement of dwarf nuts also. The following instructions shall also be observed.

(c). Since the dwarf seed nuts are to be sown in the nursery not later than 15-20 days of harvest, they are to be rushed to the farm where it is intended to be sown. The date of harvest of the same shall also be certified by the officer who is sending the seed-nuts to the farm.

(d). The rate at which the fully qualified dwarf seed-nut is to be procured is Rs. 70.00 per nut. The payment to the beneficiaries shall be done as e-payment as far as possible, but reimbursement mode is also be permitted if the procured nut is up to 5 / farmer per harvest for the smooth implementation.

(e). The cost for the dwarf nuts shall be debited from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan and the details of district wise targets are given as *Annexure II* of this circular.

3. Hybridisation and procurement of hybrid seed nuts.

(a). The coconut hybrid generally means a cross between a Dwarf Palm with a Tall Palm and their reciprocal crosses. If the female parent is a dwarf one, the hybrid shall be indicated as D x T, whereas in the reciprocal cross it is T x D. The procedure for developing the coconut hybrid shall be in accordance with the **Coconut Nursery manual / Technical Bulletin No. 057** published by the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI).

(b). The parent palms should qualify the standards as laid out for the selection of mother palms. No deviation in this matter is allowed. The manual of coconut seedling production of the Department shall be followed.

(c). The markings of the mother palms shall be in accordance with the instructions as per 1 (e) to (g) of this circular.

(d). The period of hybridisation shall be from December to May and only 11 months or older hybridised nuts shall be procured.

(e). Materials required for the production of hybrid seed-nuts are admissible under the scheme. All implementing units shall ensure that sufficient materials are in position and all equipments are properly maintained.

(f). SDU Chavakkad shall also be responsible for carrying out TXD and DXT hybridisation activities in selected mother palms of Thrissur District.

(g). T X D Unit, Chalod (AEU-2,7,11) is entrusted with TxD hybridisation activities in Kannur and Kasaragod Districts.

/106677/2023

(h). At Malappuram district, the hybridisation activities at Perumpadappa region(AEU-6) shall be monitored by ADA Perumpadappa and the procurement and hybridisation activities at SGC Munderi shall be monitored by DDA SGC Munderi .

(i). Assistant Director of Agriculture (CD), Thrissur shall co-ordinate the hybridisation and procurement activities of Thrissur & Malappuram districts.

(j). The details of pollination and hybridization works undertaken shall be properly entered in registers maintained at implementing offices. Efforts should be taken for identifying maximum number of dwarf mother palms of the locality/farms for carrying out hybridization works for increased production of coconut hybrids.

(k). The workers for carrying out pollination activities shall be selected from the pool of pollination workers approved by the Director of agriculture

(l). Proper registers and records must be kept at the Krishi Bhavans/procurement centers in connection with the selection of mother palms, procurement of and payment of seed nut cost to farmers.

(m). The rate at which the hybrid seed nuts are procured is Rs. 75.00 per nut. The targets for the production of hybrid nuts are given as *Annexure III* of this circular. The cost of hybrid seed nuts are to be debited from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan.

(n). The procured D x T hybrid seed nuts are to be rushed to the farms for immediate sowing failing which the nut water may dry up and the viability of it become lost.

4. Transportation of the seed nuts.

(a). The procured seed nuts are to be transported to the farms for sowing as fast as possible to avoid losing viability. Sufficient funds have been allocated to districts and implementing units as per *Annexure IV* of this circular.

(b). Necessary Store Purchase Rules have to be observed and the expenditure in this connection shall be debited from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan.

5. Operational expenses of SD units & pollination units

(a). Unavoidable and needy operational expenses like purchase of refrigerators, electronic scales, microscopes, maintenance of pollen storage rooms, paint, coir, banding, numbering, sealing charges, expenses in connection with rent on buildings, hiring of vehicles, fuel charges, urgent minor repair of equipments and Government vehicles, computer stationeries etc., in connection with hybridisation and seed nut procurement can be met from the State Scheme components.

(b). Under very un-avoidable circumstances; purchase of laptops, computers, printers and furniture are allowed by the sanction of the undersigned.

(c). The allocation of funds under operational expenses is attached as *Annexure V* of this circular. The total amount sanctioned is Rs. 50.00 lakh and is to be debited from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan.

6. Tagging of coconut seedlings & miscellaneous expenses

(a). It must be observed that the coconut seedlings distributed under coconut

development council programme shall be tagged for its traceability and assuring quality. The tag shall bear the name of the farm where it is produced. The variety name also shall be indicated.

(b). The amount of Rs. 40 lakh earmarked shall be utilised for meeting the printing charges of tags and for meeting the miscellaneous expenses in connection with coconut seed nut procurement.

(c). The printing and distribution of tags can be entrusted with Kerala Books & Publishing Society (KBPS, Kakkanad, Ernakulam) or C-apt (Kerala State Centre for Advanced Printing & Training).

(d). The required fund is to be debited from the H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan and the allotment details are given as *Annexure VI* of this circular.

7. Honourarium for supervisory staff

(a). The supervisory staff shall be engaged on contract basis with honararium @ Rs. 25000/month. Supervisory staff shall be utilised for the selection of mother palms, carrying out hybridisation activities for DxT and TxD production, harvesting of nuts, selection of nuts and transportation of nuts to different farms.

(b). The honorarium of supervisory staff already engaged as part of coconut council programme 2022-23 and continuing them during April May 2023 can also be met from this provision. Supervisors should have qualification equivalent to that of Agricultural Assistants. Timely action for the selection and engagement of supervisory staff shall be done by the concerned Principal Agricultural officers.

(c). An amount of Rs. 64.5 lakh can be used for this component and is to be debited from H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan and the allotment details are given as *Annexure VII* of this circular.

8. Insurance for pollination workers

(a). An amount of Rs. 0.15 lakh is provided for meeting the insurance premium for pollination workers. The ADA/SAO of seed development unit Chavakkad and TXD unit Chalode shall take immediate action for enrolling the pollination workers of their jurisdiction under Kera Suraksha Scheme of Coconut Development Board. The amount for the same can be debited from H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan and the allotment details are given as *Annexure VIII* of this circular.

9. Revitalisation of SGC Munderi

The revitalisation of SGC Munderi into a Model coconut seed farm. has been initiated during 2022-23. An amount of Rs. 19.41010 lakh set apart during 2023-24 shall be utilised for completing the works suggested in the revitalization programme approved during 2022-23. Allotment details are given as *Annexure IX* of this circular.

9. Nursery Expenses Rs.42.33188Lakh(ERCN)

(a). The nursery expenses for the production of quality coconut seedlings shall be met from the funds transferred to the PFMS account of Principal agricultural officers under CDB Scheme " Establishment of Regional Coconut Nursery " 2021-22 & 2022-23 for which detailed working instructions were issued vide circular ADFW/1332/2023-TH2 dated 3/5/2023 and ADFW/707/2022-TH2 dated 3/5/2023.

(b). If the fund as stated above is inadequate, then the balance amount is to be met from the state scheme – 'Production and distribution of planting materials' under the head of Account 2401-00-104-91 and shall be included in the forecast.

Monitoring

(a). All the palms selected for Dwarf seednut procurement under the programme should be periodically inspected by both Agricultural Officers and Agricultural Assistants. The Assistant Director of Agriculture at block level should closely watch the implementation of the programme and should ensure that a minimum of 10% of the plots are inspected by them.

(b). In the case of WCT and Hybrid seednut procurement SAO, Seed Development unit and Pollination unit should visit 20% of palms selected by Agricultural Assistants/Agricultural officers. Deputy Director of Agriculture (YP) in charge of the scheme at District level should inspect 5% of the plots. The Principal Agricultural Officers of the districts should visit at least 1% of the gardens/plots.

(c). It should be ensured that the palms are selected according to the guidelines specified. Any lapse in this regard would be seriously viewed and appropriate action shall be taken.

(d). Additional Director of Agriculture (Farms) is monitoring the scheme at state level. The Principal Agricultural Officers should submit weekly report of the programme to the Additional Director of Agriculture (Farms) in his name cover/ agrifarmsth@gmail.com.

Any difficulties or bottle necks in the implementation of the programme shall be brought to the notice of the Director of Agriculture by appropriate means.

Annexure I- Procurement of WCT seednuts

Name of procurement units & Districts	Physical Targets (No. of nuts in lakh)	Financial Target (Rs. in lakh)	Amount allotted under ERCN (Rs. in lakh)	Balance fund under Coconut Development Scheme
Seed Development Unit Vadakara, Kozhikode	11	770	70.12066	699.87934

Seed Development Unit, Chavakkad, Thrissur	2	140	34.43940	105.5606
TxD Pollination Unit, Chalod, Kannur	0.75	52.5	-	52.5
SGC Munderi Malappuram	0.25	17.5		17.5
Total	14	980	104.56006	875.43994

Annexure II Procurement of dwarf seednut @ Rs.70/seednut

Name of District	Procurement Targets(in lakh nos.)	Amount Allotted (Rs. in lakh)
TVM	0.08	5.6
KLM	0.08	5.6
ALPY	0.08	5.6
PTA	0.08	5.6
KTM	0.08	5.6
IDKY	0.03	2.1
EKM	0.08	5.6
TSR	0.45	31.5
PKD	0.10	7.0
MLPM	0.2	14
KKD	0.08	5.6
KNR	0.08	5.6
KSGD	0.08	5.6
TOTAL	1.5	105

Annexure III. Procurement of Hybrid Seednut @ Rs.75/seednut

Name of procurement units & Districts	Physical Targets (No. of nuts in lakh)	Financial Target (Rs. in lakh)
Seed Development Unit, Chavakkad, Thrissur	1.7	127.5
TxD Pollination Unit, Chalod, Kannur	0.36	27.0
SGC Munderi & Perumpadappa, Malappuram	0.04	3.0
Total	2.1	157.5

Annexure IV. Transporation of coconut seednuts

Sl.No	Name of PAO	Amount(Rs in lakh)
1	TVM	0.20
2	KLM	0.20
3	ALP	0.20
4	PTA	0.20
5	KTM	0.20
6	IDKY	0.05
7	EKM	0.20
8	TSR	24.0
9	PKD	0.20
10	MLPM	0.95
11	KKD	68
12	KNR	5.5
13	KSGD	0.10
TOTAL		100

Annexure V Operational expenses of SD units & pollination units

Sl.No

	Name of SDU/PAO	Amount(Rs in lakh)
1	Seed Development Unit,Chavakkad Thrissur	14
2	Seed Development Unit,Vadakara,Kozhikode	30
3	TXD Unit, Chalod,Kannur	6
	TOTAL	50

Annexure VI Tagging of coconut seedlings & miscellaneous expenses

Sl No	District	Amount(Rs in lakh)
1	TVM	2.5
2	KLM	2.5
3	ALP	2.5
4	PTA	1.5
5	KTM	2.5
6	IDKY	1
7	EKM	2.5
8	TSR	6
9	PKD	3.5
10	MLPM	3.5

106677/2023

11	KKD	8
12	KNR	3
13	KSGD	1
TOTAL		40

Annexure VII Honararium for supervisory staff

SI No	SDU/District	No.of supervisory staff	Amount(Rs in lakh)@Rs.25000/month for 6 months
1	Seed Development Unit,Vadakara Kozhikkod	30	45
2	Seed Development Unit,Chavakkad Thrissur	13	19.5
Total		43	64.5

Annexure VIII Insurance for pollination workers

SI No	SDU/District	No.of pollination workers	Amount(Rs in lakh)
1	Seed Development Unit,Chavakkad Thrissur	125	0.125
2	TXD Unit, Chalod,Kannur	25	0.025
Total		150	0.150

Annexure IX Revitalisation of SGC Munderi

SI No	Farm/District	Amount(Rs in lakh)
1	SGC Munderi Malappuram	19.41010
Total		19.41010

Allotment of Funds under H/A 2401-00-103-87 plan(Rs in Lakh)

District	Seed Cost			Transportation	Operational expenses	Tagging & miscellaneous	Honorarium	Insurance for plantation workers	Revitalisation of SGWC	Total
	WCT	Hybrid	Dwarf							
TVM			5.6	0.20		2.5				8.3
KLM			5.6	0.20		2.5				8.3
ALP			5.6	0.20		2.5				8.3
PTA			5.6	0.20		1.5				7.3
KTM			5.6	0.20		2.5				8.3
IDK			2.1	0.05		1				3.15
EKM			5.6	0.20		2.5				8.3
TSR	105.5606	127.5	31.5	24.0	14	6	19.5	0.125		328.1856
PKD			7.0	0.20		3.5				10.7
MLPM	17.5	3.0	14	0.95		3.5			19.41010	58.3601
KKD	699.87934		5.6	68	30	8	45			856.4793
KNR	52.5	27	5.6	5.5	6	3		0.025		99.625
KSGD			5.6	0.10		1				6.7
TOTAL	875.43994	157.5	105	100	50	40	64.5	0.151	19.4101	1412

(Rupees Fourteen Crore Twelve Lakh only)

The amount for the implementation of scheme components can be debited from Rs.1412 lakh (Rupees Fourteen Crore twelve Lakh only) earmarked for the scheme "Coconut Development" under the Head account: 2401-00-103-87 Plan from current year's budget provisions.

Self
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To All Principal Agricultural Officers except wayanad

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106677/2023

DA.Planning section,SW section