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No:ADFW/3196/2023-TF2

Date:30-06-2023

**Circular**

Sub:- Centrally Sponsored Scheme - “Bharatiya Prakartik Krishi Padhathi (Subhiksham Surakshitham Padhathi) 2<sup>nd</sup> year– Scheme on Kerala Agro Ecology Based Biodiversity Conservation” 2020-'21- 164 Clusters under National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Working Instruction for 2<sup>nd</sup> year implementation- issued :- reg.

Ref:- 1)GO (Rt) no. 375/2023/ AGRI dated. 19.04.2023  
2) Circular No. TF(2)10058/2020 dated. 01.02.2021 of the Director of Agriculture.

Government of India launched the new three year programme – the Bharatiya Prakartik Krishi Padhathi (BPKP) and the Government of Kerala is implementing the same with the title “Subhiksham Surakshitham Padhathi- Kerala Agro Ecology based Biodiversity Conservation” which is a low external input, sustainable organic system of Agriculture, largely depending upon the principles of Natural Farming.

Even though BPKP was started during 2020-21, implementation started through conducting promotional activities to encourage organic farming, during the financial year 2021-22, to farmers in an area of 82000 ha with 164 clusters in the state. Presently, the Govt. has released the first installment of funds for the second year activities as per the reference first cited.

As implemented during the previous years, this scheme is implemented as Centrally Sponsored scheme with 60:40 Central and State share and with

5% fund for SC and 5% fund for ST beneficiaries. An amount of Rs.2927.40 lakh (Both Central and State share) has been set apart during current financial year 2023-24.

The Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) formed under this scheme are of key importance for the successful implementation of the programme. Even though funds have not been set apart for the Farmers' Interest Groups (FIGs) formed during the 1<sup>st</sup> year, they need to be encouraged and should continue to operate on a self sustainable mode. Plan funds available with the LSGDs or funds from other agencies can be mobilized to provide assistance as revolving funds, infrastructure support etc. The FIGs should be encouraged to upgrade themselves to FPOs, either singly or in association with other FIGs in the block.

**Aims and Objectives:**

- Enhancement of organic soil carbon status which aid to mitigate climate change and its consequences in the primary sector.
- Promote low external input sustainable agriculture models suited to agro- ecological farming.
- To achieve self-sufficiency in food and conserve gene pool.
- Provide healthy, nutritive and safe food to the community to build up the resistance mechanism in the post- covid scenario.
- Showcase homestead gardening in Kerala by highlighting the integrated organic farming system with on-farm recycling.
- Bring homesteads which are organic by default and provide them options for organic farming technologies and achieve food and nutrition security by encouraging climate resilient nutritious crops.
- Help to maintain ecological balance.
- Conservation of natural resources and to achieve resilience.
- Pool and disseminate the scientific organic agricultural practices by

bringing all the innovative technologies including ITK (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge) under one umbrella.

- Certification, branding and marketing of Kerala Organic Products under one Brand with use of ICT. (Information & Communication technology).

### **Mode of implementation**

This programme of motivating and promoting the farmers to undertake organic/ natural farming, is to be implemented through the farmers engaged with the already formed 164 clusters of 500 ha each in all districts; in a total area of 82000 ha (500 ha x 164 clusters), in continuation of first year.

For adoption of organic farming through cluster approach under PGS certification, assistance will be provided for a 3 years term. The cluster size will be of 500 ha consisting of 10 micro-clusters of 50 Ha each within a block. The clusters which will be under the supervision of the block level Assistant Directors. The Block Level Knowledge Center infrastructure should be used for this programme to the maximum extent possible. The micro-clusters will be under the supervision of the respective Krishi Bhavan. The concerned Agricultural Assistants should co-ordinate, verify and monitor the scheme implementation at field level. The Agricultural Officers should supervise the micro-cluster activities, help the cluster members to plan their activities, encourage and motivate the cluster members. Agricultural officers should assign agricultural assistants to supervise each micro-cluster through community resource persons. Agricultural Officers should conduct proper field inspection and approval should be made in the AIMS portal. The scheme is being implemented through PFMS based transaction. Convergence with other schemes will be ensured where ever possible.

**(a) High power committee for cluster coordination (HPCCC) in each clusters of 500 ha**

The block level high power committee already constituted during the first year shall continue (can change existing members if necessary viz; SLRPs & HPCC Convener) to function, which will comprise of block Assistant Director as chairman, Agricultural Officers of the block as members, 4 Senior Local Resource Persons (SLRPs) and 4 farmer representatives selected by following proper selection criteria from the organic farmers who have enrolled through AIMS portal. Of the 4 farmer representatives one will be HPCCC convener for 3 months. Each farmer representative will take turns to be the convener of HPCCC for 3 month each. Each of them will be paid Rs 27000/- (for 3 months) for taking up different technology demonstrations, creation of suitable infrastructure or making improvements in their existing farm infrastructure.

Monthly meetings of HPCCC should be conducted and status reports of the various scheme components be reviewed. HPCCC will take the necessary decision regarding the further activities under the scheme, approve plan of action of various micro clusters and provide necessary suggestions. The convenors will take up technology demonstrations, create suitable infrastructure or make improvements in their existing farm infrastructure utilising the amount of Rs.9000/- per month allotted to them as 100% assistance.

An amount of Rs.27000/- @9000/- per month (for 3 months rotation) will be allotted to each convener for taking up different technology demonstration under this program.

**Criteria For Selection Of Cluster Coordinator**

The selected farmer representatives should be able to influence the cluster members and should have good leadership qualities and communication

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skills. He/ she has to view the cluster activities on a long term and from a farmer perspective. They are expected to visit the various micro-clusters and their activities, motivate and encourage them and suggest improvements. Farmers practicing organic farming in a minimum of 50 cents area for the last two years & Women/ Youth farmers/ Members of SHG/ NHG, award winner farmers in organic farming and related subjects & farmers who have served as resource person for training classes on organic farming or who have attended training in organic farming & farmers having proven leadership and organizing skills, having knowledge in computer for data entry and AIMS portal registration & well versed with the use of social media and are up to date with the recent developments should be considered.

### **Duties**

Conducting demonstration plots highlighting various aspects of organic farming according to the guidelines issued for the Subhiksham Surakshitham Padhathi, conducting field level farmers training and awareness programme, facilitate the implementation of State Govt, Centrally sponsored and other schemes of the Department by acting as a link between extension functionaries and farming community & monitoring the various stages of scheme implementation, will be the main duties of the cluster coordinator. He/ She will be a member of block level high power committee.

### **b) Senior Local Resource Persons (SLRPs)**

4 registered farmers on rotation basis (3 months each) will be selected as Senior local resource persons in each cluster by following proper selection criteria from the organic farmers who have enrolled through AIMS portal. Each of them will be engaged in a rotation of three months in each financial year, based on his crop season.

An amount of Rs. 21000/- for three months @ 7000/-per month will be given for taking up different technology demonstrations under this program. The SLRPs will take up technology demonstrations, create suitable infrastructure or make improvements in their existing farm infrastructure utilizing the amount of Rs.21000/- (for three months) allotted to them as 100% assistance. SLRPs and HPCCC conveners should be entrusted with monitoring of the various scheme components.

### **Criteria for Selection of SLRP**

The selected SLRPs should be able to assist the cluster co-ordinator and to influence the cluster members and should have good leadership qualities and communication skills. He/ she has to view the cluster activities on a long term and from a farmer perspective. They are expected to visit the various micro-clusters and their activities, motivate and encourage them and suggest improvements. The SLRPs should be farmers practicing organic farming in a minimum of 30 cents area for the last two years, preferably; women/ youth farmers/ members of SHGs/ NHGs, award winning farmers in organic farming and related subjects, farmers who have served as resource person for training classes on organic farming or who have attended training in organic farming, farmers who have proven leadership and organizing skills, farmers having working knowledge in computer for data entry and AIMS portal registration & farmers who are well versed with the use of social media and are upto date with the recent developments should be given preference.

### **Duties**

The duties of the SLRPs include; conducting demonstration plots highlighting various aspects of organic farming according to the guidelines issued for the Subhiksham surakshitham padhathi, conducting field level farmers training and awareness programme, facilitate the implementation of

State Govt, Centrally sponsored and other Schemes of the Department by acting as a link between extension functionaries and farming community & monitor various stages of scheme implementation. The SLRP will be a member of block level high power committee.

### **c) Local Resource Persons (LRP)**

2 LRPs will be deployed for each block level cluster of 500 Ha who will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs.5000/-. The LRPs will be selected by following proper selection criteria from the organic farmers who have enrolled through AIMS portal and supervised by the Assistant Director of Agriculture and will be responsible for management of 5 micro-cluster each.

### **Criteria for Selection of LRPs**

Selected LRPs should be farmers practicing organic farming in a minimum 20 cents area for the last two years. Women/Youth Farmers/Members of SHG/NHG may be given preference. Farmers having working knowledge in computer for data entry and AIMS portal registration those who are well versed with the use of social media and are up to date with the recent developments may be considered.

### **Duties**

The main duties include; facilitate collection and processing of applications, registration of farmer details in AIMS portal, conducting awareness programme and documentation of activities, facilitate the implementation of State Govt, Centrally sponsored and other Schemes of the Department by acting as a link between extension functionaries and farming community, coordinate the activities of 5 micro clusters of 50 ha each and monitor and activities of CRP & facilitate farmers for AIMS portal registration , data collection, updation, etc.

**d) Community Resource Person (CRP)**

Activities in each 50 ha micro-cluster will be coordinated by a farmer selected by following proper selection criteria from the list of applicants from AIMS, who will be supervised by the concerned agricultural officer. The CRPs will be paid a monthly honorarium of Rs.3000/-.

An amount of Rs.3000/- allotted per CRP per month. (Total Rs.3.60 lakhs for 10 CRP/ year/ 500ha).

**CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CRP**

Farmers practicing organic farming in a minimum 10 cents area for the last two years, Women/Youth Farmers/Members of SHG/NHGs, farmers having working knowledge in computer for data entry and AIMS portal registration & farmers who are well versed with the use of social media and are upto date with the recent developments may be considered for selection as CRP.

**Duties**

The duties of the CRPs include; facilitate collection and processing of application, registration of farmer details in AIMS portal, arranging awareness programme and documentation of activities, facilitate the implementation of State Govt, Centrally sponsored and other Schemes of the Department by acting as a link between extension functionaries and farming community, coordinate the activities of micro clusters of 50 ha & facilitate farmers for AIMS portal registration, data updation, etc.

**e) Cluster office management and data entry operations**

Each block level cluster of 500 ha will be provided with a sum of 1.2 lakhs per annum @ Rs. 10000/- per month for hiring data entry operators. DEO should have minimum +2 / VHSE qualification along with MS Office/ DCA/ PGDCA or equivalent qualification and should have



proficiency in data entry. Data entry operators can be selected through employment exchange and will be responsible for data entry and updation of the data pertaining to the whole 500 ha cluster in AIMS portal and PGS website.

**A.2) Cluster formation, capacity building, exposure visits and training of field functionaries.**

An amount of Rs.316/- per ha per year (Rs.1.58 lakhs per 500 ha block level cluster) will be provided for cluster formation, continuous capacity building, trainings and exposure visits of field functionaries and farmers. Following capacity building activities will be taken up on annual basis;

The amounts allotted for the trainings shall be utilized for making it as effective as possible. The HPCCC can decide on the training mode and expenses. It includes Honorarium to faculty, training materials, refreshments etc. A single banner can be used for various training programs if possible; a single printed book including various organic farming techniques with blank pages to note down training notes can be planned if possible. HPCCC shall approve and encourage innovative extension tools. All efforts shall be taken to keep the activities eco- friendly to the maximum possible extent.

**a) Practical training including exposure visit to LRPs and CRPs**

Training including exposure visits to selected model organic farms, will be organized for LRPs and CRPs every year, at a cost of Rs.24,000/-. This training will be provided to successful organic farmers identified by the High Power Committee.

**b) Yearly capacity building for all resource persons (CRP/ LRP/ expert farmers/ SLRPs, etc. by external resource persons**

One 2 days annual capacity building training for all resource persons will be organized. A sum of Rs.20,000/- will be provided for training of 20

persons. Districts can nominate successful, innovative or experienced organic farmers, from whom farmers will be identified and selected at state level and empaneled as external resource persons.

**c) Capacity building of clusters through experts or SLRP**

Cluster farmer on-farm training will be organized in batch of 25 farmers in ecological engineering, on-farm production of bio-control agents, soil health and rhizosphere management, local biodiversity and related topics on organic farming. 10 trainings per year will be conducted in a cluster @ Rs.3500/- per training. (Rs.0.35 lakh per year for 500 ha block level cluster).

**d) Training of the farmers by LRPs and CRPs**

10 training of one day duration will be organized in a 500 ha cluster (@ one training per micro-cluster) at village level in a batch of 25 farmers. An amount of Rs.100 is provided per farmer for such trainings (Rs.0.25 lakh per year for 500 ha block level cluster).

**e) Kissan Mela (once in a year)**

A sum of Rs.54000/- is provided per year for conducting Kissan Mela in the clusters. Exposure on organic farming practices, display of successful models and sharing farmer experiences will be its highlight. Financial assistance is provided to meet the expenses of arranging stalls, rent charges, labor charges, publicity materials, transportation and management of event.

**B. PGS Certification by Regional Councils**

**B.1 Service charges to PGS Regional Council**

Service Charges to RCs for physical verification, certification endorsement and certificate issuance including grant of TCs for sales facilitation. A sum of Rs. 600/- per ha/ year is provided (Total Rs. 3.00 lakh per year for 500 ha block level cluster)

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## Roles and Responsibilities of Regional Council.

Physical verification of groups at least once a year, including participation in some peer appraisals by group for peer appraiser's competence assessment, periodic checking of data being uploaded-checking of local group summary work sheets for organic certification; whether complete in all respect and are maintained by groups, appraisal of summary sheets and communication of compliance/non-compliance, endorsements, returning for review or denial of certification decision, activate and issue Certification UID to each local groups in case of endorsement, print and distribute annual organic certificates to individual farmer members, coordinating RCONF, NCONF, State Government authorities for sample collection for residue analysis and sending to authorized testing laboratories, communication of test results & to submit progress report to NCONF.

### **B.2 Residue Analysis through NABL Accredited Laboratories**

PGS Regional Council shall undertake residue analysis for ascertaining levels of pesticide residues in BPKP produce @ 3 samples per 100 ha for second year and third year. Testing shall be done in NABL accredited labs duly approved by PGS secretariat. A sum of Rs 1 lakh per 500 ha cluster is provided for residue analysis @ Rs 200/- per ha for second year scheme implementation. (List of approved NABL Labs enclosed as Annexure – III )

### **B.3 Farmers Demo, Seed Bank, etc.**

#### **a) Indigenous Knowledge System**

Traditional farming practices can be documented and uploaded into an online repository of the portal. Farmers should be encouraged to evaluate

the success of these practices in comparison with other organic technologies, which can help in further refining these knowledge systems. Such evaluation plots should be selected @ 4 evaluation plots per micro-cluster @ Rs.2000 per plot (Rs.0.80 lakh per year for 500 ha block level cluster) which will be distributed to the farmer as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Farmers indigenous cultivation practices have to be selected for this purpose. These practices may vary from crop to crop and place to place. Indigenous practices to avoid or reduce pest population also can be evaluated. Agriculture Officer have a freedom to select the practices done in their locality.

A plot size of 100 sq m (2.5 cents) area should be selected for evaluation. A control plot also run in parallel to the evaluation plot to compare with the experiment plot. Four evaluation plots per micro cluster has to be selected for this study. Observation is taken from net plot area avoiding the border area in the plot. From the net plot at least 5 plants are marked and tagged for taking observation. Proper documentation of various indigenous/ traditional practices should be done *and the yield data should be recorded. A trial protocol and observation parameters should be finalized by the Agricultural officer in consultation with the block level knowledge center (BLKC).*

#### **b) Germplasm Conservation**

Farmers should be encouraged to cultivate traditional crop varieties with an intention to conserve and propagate the fast depleting genetic resources. Traditional varieties of at least 3 different crop plants should be maintained per farmer in an area of minimum 10 cents. The crops should be well labeled with safeguards in place for ensuring genetic purity and they should maintain documents of seeds produced. An assistance of Rs.2000 per plot can be given to each germplasm conservation center. 4 germplasm

conservation centers per micro cluster (Rs.0.80 lakhs per year for 500 ha block level cluster) which will be distributed to the farmer through DBT. The seeds produced should be labeled and packed and distributed among farmers for further cultivation. (Traditional varieties available in the locality can be selected for conservation.)

### **c) Demonstration Plots**

Various organic farming technologies should be demonstrated in these plots. 10 demonstration plots of 10 cents area should be taken up under one micro cluster @ Rs.2400/- (Rs.2.4 lac per year for 500 Ha block level cluster) which will be distributed to the farmer as DBT. Agricultural Officers have the freedom to adopt practices approved by KAU/ NIPHM / Other authorized agencies required on need basis with proper documentation of the activities.

### **Administrative Cost**

2% administrative cost provided to the states to meet contingencies that include recurring expenses of various kinds, providing technical guidance and basic amenities for effective monitoring of the scheme implementation, conducting meetings, trainings, field visits, etc. **Based on the requirement of the districts, the Principal Agricultural Officers may request for funds to the Directorate, for meeting contingencies.**

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The scheme will be monitored by Additional Director of Agriculture (Marketing) at State level and assisted by Deputy Director of Agriculture in charge of organic farming cell /Marketing. Organic Farming Cell will coordinate the programme at State level. At the district level Principal Agricultural Officers will monitor and evaluate the scheme. The Deputy

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Director of Agriculture (NWDPR) in the districts will implement the scheme at district level with the Organic Farming Cell in the districts. Physical and financial progress under the scheme should be sent to Directorate in Annexure (IV) before 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Sd/

**ANJU K S IAS**  
**DIRECTOR**  
Director of Agriculture

- Encl: 1) Annexure – I (Annual action plan for 2<sup>nd</sup> year)  
2) Annexure – I (2<sup>nd</sup> year district wise break up)  
3) Annexure – III (Authorized NABL Laboratories List)  
4) Annexure – IV (MPR format)

- Copy to: 1) Director, SAMETI  
2) All Additional Directors of Agriculture  
3) All Principal Agricultural Officers  
4) CA to DA  
5) IT Website  
6) TP(1) Section  
7) SW(2) Section

*P. Balan*  
**Deputy Director of Agriculture**  
**State Organic Farming Cell**  
**Directorate of Agriculture**  
**Thiruvananthapuram**

**Annexure – I**

<b>ACTION PLAN FOR BHARTIYA PRAKRATIK KRISHI PADHATI - COMPONENT WISE FINANCIAL BREAK UP OF EXPENDITURE FOR SECOND YEAR in 82000 ha.</b>				
	<b>Components</b>	<b>Pattern of assistance rate/500 ha</b>	<b>Nos/ Cluster</b>	<b>Total amount for /Cluster (Rs.in Lakhs)</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Programme Implementation</b>			
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Deployment of manpower</b>			
a	Convenor HPC (High power Committee)	9000/month	1	1.08
b	Senior Local resource person - One	7000/Month	1	0.84
c	Local resource person (LRP) - Two	5000/ month	2	1.20
d	Community Resource person (CRP) -10	3000/month	10	3.60
e	Office management	10000/month	1	1.20
<b>Sub Total</b>				<b>7.92</b>
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Cluster formation, capacity building, exposure visits and training of filed functionaries</b>			
a	Practical training including exposure visit to LRPs and CRPs	24000 / Training/ year	1	0.24
b	Yearly capacity building of all Resource persons (CRP/LRP/Expert Farmers/SLRP etc) by external resource persons	20000 / Training/ year	1	0.20
c	Capacity building of cluster through Expert SLRP	3500/Training	10	0.35
d	Training of the farmers by LRPs and CRPs	2500/Training	10	0.25
e	Kissan Mela once in a year	54000	1	0.54
<b>Sub Total</b>				<b>1.58</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>PGS Certification</b>			
B.1	PGS certification services charge to PGS Regional Councils	600/ha	500 ha	3.00
B.2	Residue analysis	200/ha	500ha	1.00
<b>Sub Total</b>				<b>4.00</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Incentive to farmer/FIGs /Farmer groups</b>			
C.1	Incentive to farmers as DBT	0	0	0
C.2	Infrastructure support to FIGs	0	0	0
C.3	<b>Farmer Demo &amp; Seed Bank etc.</b>			
a	Indigenous knowledge system	2000/plot	40 Nos.	0.80
b	Germplasm conservation	2000/plot	40 Nos.	0.80
c	Demonstration plots	2400/plot	100 Nos.	2.40
<b>Sub Total</b>				<b>4.00</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Administrative cost (2% reserved @ State level)</b>			<b>0.35</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>				<b>0.35</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>17.85</b>

*P. Malan*  
 Deputy Director of Agriculture  
 State Organic Farming Cell  
 Directorate of Agriculture  
 Thiruvananthapuram





**Annexure – IV**

<b>Bhararthyia Prakratik Krishi Padhati - 2<sup>nd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> installment – Monthly Progress Report (MPR)</b>					
Month & year					
Targeted area (Ha)					
Achievement area (Ha)					
No.of farmers involved		Male : -----	Female : -----	Total : -----	
Amount allotted (in lakh)					
Expenditure (in lakh)					
Balance (in lakh)					
Sl. No.	Components	Physical (Ha/Nos.)		Financial (Amount in lakh)	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
<b>A</b>	<b>Programme Implementation</b>				
<b>A.1</b>	<b>Deployment of manpower</b>				
a	Convenor HPC (High power Committee)				
b	Senior Local resource person - One				
c	Local resource person (LRP) - Two				
d	Community Resource person (CRP) -10				
e	Office management				
<b>Sub Total</b>					
<b>A.2</b>	<b>Cluster formation, capacity building, exposure visits and training of filed functionaries</b>				
a	Practical training including exposure visit to LRPs and CRPs				
b	Yearly capacity building of all Resource persons (CRP/LRP/Expert Farmers/SLRP etc) by external resource persons				
c	Capacity building of cluster through Expert SLRP				
d	Training of the farmers by LRPs and CRPs				
e	Kissan Mela once in a year				
<b>Sub Total</b>					
<b>B</b>	<b>PGS Certification</b>				
B.1	PGS certification services charge to PGS Regional Councils				

B.2	Residue analysis				
<b>Sub Total</b>					
<b>C</b>	<b>Incentive to farmer/FIGs /Farmer groups</b>				
C.1	Incentive to farmers as DBT	0	0	0	0
C.2	Infrastructure support to FIGs	0	0	0	0
C.3	<b>Farmer Demo &amp; Seed Bank etc.</b>				
a	Indigenous knowledge system				
b	Germplasm conservation				
c	Demonstration plots				
<b>Sub Total</b>					
<b>D</b>	<b>Administrative cost (2% reserved @ State level)</b>				
<b>Sub Total</b>					
<b>Total</b>					