

120340/2023

## Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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### CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2023-24-Scheme on Coconut Development -working Instructions for scheme implementation - Reg

Ref:- 1) G.O (Rt)No.695/2023/Agri dated 19/7/2023  
2) This office circular of even no dated 28/6/2023

In the Annual Plan 2023-24, a budget provision of Rs.6895.00 lakh has been earmarked for the scheme "Coconut Development" under the head of account 2401-00-103-87 Plan. The main activities under the scheme are Keragramam I, II, III yr, Kera Raksha Vaaram and Distribution of Coconut seedlings as part of Coconut Development Council fifth year activities. The working instructions and physical and financial targets for Keragramam II and III yr has been already issued as per reference 2nd cited. The working instructions for the implementation of the components Keragramam first year, Kera Raksha Vaaram and Coconut Seedling production under the scheme is issued as follows.

The scheme components are to be implemented for full filling the following objectives.

- 1.Increase production and productivity of coconut
- 2.Integrated pest and disease management
- 3.Integrated nutrient management of coconut gardens
- 4.Promotion of inter cultivation
- 5.Promotion of inter cropping
- 6.Improvement of irrigation facilities
- 7.Ensure availability of quality planting materials
- 8.Popularization of climbing devices for easy harvesting
- 9.Promotion of value addition ventures in potential Panchayaths
- 10.Employment generation with respect coconut based farming system.

The sanctioned technical programme and the directions for implementation are issued for compliance at all levels as per the following heads.

### **1.Comprehensive Coconut Rejuvenation and planting programme (KERAGRAMAM):**

The aim of this scheme component is to improve the health vigour of existing coconut gardens. This scheme component shall be implemtened in a campaign mode under the allotted Krishibhavan under the name 'Keragramam'. The entire scheme component supports establishment of new Keragramams and supporting the established ones for a period of maximum three consecutive years.

#### **1.1 Establishment of new Keragramams.**

(a). The scheme component except the plant protection operations shall be applicable to

L20340/2023

small and marginal farmers only. The minimum area for a Keragramam is 100 ha, but the financial provision remains the same if the area exceeds 100 ha. The area shall be a contiguous one as far as possible.

(b). A total of 50 Keragramams are planned for 2023-24 and the list of Krishibhavans selected for implementation would be decided by the undersigned following a selection criteria wherein the aspects like extent of contiguity, extent of coconut based farming systems, extent of pest & disease incidence etc., and intimated later. Those areas where Keragramams are not implemented previously would be given preference.

(c). The Agricultural Officers / AFOs who has been allotted with new Keragramams shall initiate the identification process by surveying the field and the implementation area shall be fixed.

(d). They shall conduct a meeting with the President / Chairperson of the LSGI, Chairperson of Development Standing Committee, relevant members / councilors of the wards and farmer representatives to develop the action plan for implementation. This action plan shall be elaborated with the help of a Technical Resource Group (TRG).

(e) The constitution of TRG - the Concerned ADA shall be the Technical Head, AO/AFO being the convener, a scientist (from KVK, SAU / R&D institutions), representatives from Agro-Service Centres / Karshika Karmasenas / Krishikkootams in the Service Sector and representatives from the Primary Agricultural Co-operative societies or Government approved input supplying agencies as members. They shall prepare the action plan for implementing the scheme. The action plan shall be approved by the TRG and communicated to the respective PAOs.

(f). The AOs/ AFOs shall conduct ward level meetings with the members and farmers to create awareness among the farmers as a part of their routine activities. The Agricultural Assistants shall be in charge of their ward level meetings.

(g). Suitable formats for applications shall be developed by AO/AFOs including the personal details of the farmers, condition of the farms, yield, options for interventions as suggested by the farmers etc. The expenses in connection with the printing and distribution of application shall be met from the functional expenses allocated under the scheme.

(h). The data shall be tabulated to obtain the statistics and the scheme shall be implemented with the following components.

#### **A Keragramam -First Year :**

The Keragramam scheme is to be implemented in **50 units of 100 ha each**. The activities sanctioned under this component are as detailed below.

1)**Integrated management of coconut gardens** : The main activity is the integrated management of coconut gardens on cluster basis. The programme will be implemented in 50 Keragramams with a project area size of 100 ha each during 2023-24. Thus a total area of 5000 ha will be covered under the programme. In the selected 100 ha units of coconut palms, all the keragramam activities will be adopted. Scientific and timely adoption of management practices of the existing and newly planted palms like opening of basins, husk burial, inter cropping, soil test based INM practices which includes lime application,

L20340/2023

application of fertilisers, biofertilisers, organic manure, secondary Micronutrients, IPDM which includes crown cleaning, application of PPC/ Biopesticides/ Bio control agents etc, Providing irrigation facilities, climbing equipments are the activities targeted.

a. Intercultural operations – opening of coconut basins, weeding, mulching etc.

The coconut basins are to be kept weed free by periodical weeding. Mulching is an effective method of conserving soil moisture. Mulching coconut basins with green / dry leaves at the end of north-east monsoons will add organic matter to the soil and reduce soil temperature. Opening of coconut basins will help to conserve moisture and facilitate maximum percolation of rainwater and water conservation. It is estimated that an amount of Rs.70/- is required for opening coconut basins and application of fertilizers and manures. An amount limited to Rs.35/- per palm as 50% subsidy be given as financial assistance.

b. Coconut Husk burial for Moisture Conservation in Coconut garden.

For moisture retention, burying of fresh or dried husk around the palm is a desirable practice. The husks are placed in layers with concave surface facing upwards in trenches of 0.5 m width and depth taken around the palm at a distance of 2 meters away from the trunk. The benefit of moisture conservation will last for 5-7 years. It is estimated that an amount of Rs.100/- per palm is required for taking trench and burying coconut husks. An amount limited to Rs. 50/- per palm as 50% subsidy can be given as financial assistance.

c. Inter cropping in coconut garden.

To ensure optimum resource utilization including better land utilization, harvesting of solar energy, efficient water use, better utilization of soil nutrient resource and for more returns, inter cropping with suitable crops like banana, tuber crops, ginger, turmeric etc can be taken up in coconut gardens. An assistance of 50 % subsidy of the total cost of cultivation limited to Rs. 6000/- per ha will be given.

d. Integrated Nutrient management (Soil test based )

Coconut plantations which are not properly managed are to be supplemented with soil ameliorants, organic manures and chemical fertilizers in order to revive their production and productivity. The application of major/secondary/micronutrients /lime should be done based on soil test recommendations.

(i). Soil Ameliorants: Soil acidity is a major problem in Kerala. Application of liming materials like lime / dolomite / gypsum / powdered lime improves the soil condition and accelerates uptake of nutrients. Liming materials can be provided at 75% subsidy limited to Rs.9/- per palm.

(ii). Fertilizers/Biofertilisers: 50% subsidy limited to Rs.20/- per palm can be given as assistance.

(iii). Magnesium Sulphate/Secondary /Micronutrients : In areas where yellowing of coconut is predominant, application of Magnesium sulphate is inevitable at the recommended dose of 0.5 kg/palm/year. Based on soil test reports, in case of deficiency secondary /micronutrients can be applied. For this, 50% of the total cost limited to Rs.3.75/- per palm can be given as subsidy.

(iv). Organic Manure: 50% of the cost of organic manures/farm yard manure /compost limited to Rs.25/- per palm per year can be given as assistance.

e. Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM)

(i). PP Chemicals: For under taking Plant protection operations, including prophylactic

L20340/2023

spraying, 50 % subsidy limited to Rs.10/-per palm will be provided as assistance.

(ii) Application of Bio-pesticides and Bio-control agents: To limit the indiscriminate use of plant protection chemicals, bio-pesticides and bio-control agents are given thrust considering environment friendliness and health aspect of the society. 50% subsidy limited to Rs.25/- per palm can be given for promoting the use of Bio pesticide and Bio control agents. Biopesticides shall be purchased from State Biocontrol Lab, Mannuthy since it is the only Government institution in Kerala presently possessing CIBRC Registration. Biofertilizers and Biocontrol agents shall be procured preferably from Biofertilizer laboratories, Parasite Breeding station in Government Sector. Assistance will be provided for the release of bio control agents and labour charge for climbing palms @ 50% subsidy of the total cost limited to Rs.50/-per palm. For the purpose of PPC operations and application of Bio-pesticides and Bio-control agents, it has to be ensured that all hot spot areas are completely covered irrespective of the small and marginal farmer category, for successful eradication of the source of infestation. The large farmer category restriction is waived for this purpose only.

f. Cut and removal of disease affected, old and senile unproductive palms.

An amount of Rs.1000/palm limited to Rs. 10000/ha can be given as assistance for cut and removal of disease affected, old and senile unproductive palms @ 10 palms per ha. 100 ha project area should be considered as a cluster and individual area ceiling need not be insisted for removing the disease affected, old and senile palms. However the total limit for the cluster as a whole should not be exceeded for financial assistance.

g. Replanting with good quality coconut seedlings.

The cut and removal of diseased, old and senile palms will be followed up immediately by a systematic replanting programme. The disease affected palms cut will be replanted with disease tolerant seedlings to standardize the density of population at 175 palms/ha. 50 % subsidy limited to Rs.60/ per seedling can be given as assistance @ 7 seedlings per ha. A cluster approach may be followed for this component also without exceeding the total financial limit for keragramams for this activity. Labour component for intercultural operations, application of inputs and plant protection activities can be met from MNREGS by placing appropriate proposals to the local self Government. Services of Karshika karma sena and Agro service centres also may be utilized for this purpose.

Subsidy to the components (a) to (g) is limited to Rs.19200/-per ha under the state plan share, for covering an area of 5000 ha @ 100 ha/ Keragramam. An amount of Rs.960 lakh is set apart for the above 7 sub components (a to g) under Integrated Management of Coconut Gardens under the state plan share, for 50 nos of Keragramams @ Rs 19.2 lakh per Keragramam unit.

However the assistance under the integrated management component can be extended upto Rs.25000/- per ha by integrating the resources from the Janakeeyasoothranam funds of the respective local bodies, to undertake more components from the enlisted activities following the stipulated subsidy norms limiting to Rs 5800/- per hectare.

## 2). Installation of Irrigation components including micro irrigation

Irrigation is a major contributing factor in increasing the production and productivity of coconut gardens. Studies have proved that upto 20% yield increase can be attained through irrigation. It is sanctioned to bring a minimum additional area of 10 ha. in each Keragramam under irrigation. For this, assistance shall be provided for digging new wells/ponds and installing pumpsets and for installation of pumpset alone if there is an existing water source. Assistance will be provided at 50% subsidy limited to a maximum

L20340/2023

of Rs10000/- per unit of well or pumpset with accessories for small and marginal farmers with a minimum area of 0.12 ha (30 cents).

Drip/Sprinkler irrigation units can be installed availing assistance from this scheme or can be linked with any other micro irrigation schemes like that of State Horticulture Mission. The maximum assistance for irrigation component is limited to Rs.25000/- per ha. An amount of Rs.125.00 lakhs is set apart for this component @ Rs 2.5 lakhs per keragramam, for covering an additional area of 500 ha, in 50 Keragramams. More area, if necessary, can be brought under the irrigation component utilizing the savings if any, from items 1 to 4.

The irrigation component can also be integrated with the CSS scheme PMKSY. Low cost eco-friendly water harvesting structures including those models developed by KAU can be constructed in the cluster area, utilizing the fund provisions available, however the subsidy limit per unit should not be exceeded. Additional assistance, if eligible as per approved cost norms, can be extended from appropriate State/ Central schemes. Size of the pond in the cluster area can be determined based on the water requirement. The valuation can be done either by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri), LSGD Engineer or by the concerned Agricultural Officer, who himself is also a competent authority.

### 3) Coconut Climbing Equipments for Clusters.

For popularizing mechanization in coconut harvesting, imparting training to overcome the shortage of skilled labourers in the field of coconut harvesting, spraying operations, supply of coconut climbing devices at subsidized rate is another objective of the project. 1250 nos. of climbing devices @ 25 devices per Keragramam are to be distributed to small and marginal farmers in the selected Panchayats through Krishi Bhavans. The equipments are to be purchased from KAICO/RAIDCO. Permissible subsidy is Rs.2000/-per unit. An amount of Rs. 25.0 lakh @ Rs 0.5 lakh per Keragramam is set apart for this component. More climbing devices can be distributed, if necessary, utilizing the savings if any, from items 1 to 4.

### 4) Establishing Organic Manure Production units

Organic farming is an emerging area in the country and the export potential of organic products is increasing across the world. To meet the growing demand for organic products, organic manure production also has to be enhanced. To promote the production of organic manure by vermi-composting or coir pith composting, and to make use of the unused organic waste as a part of in situ waste management, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 10,000/- per unit will be given to the beneficiary for establishing compost unit of 7.2 x 1.2 x 0.6 metre size and for meeting material cost of inputs aiding in composting. It is sanctioned to establish 200 nos. of such organic manure production units in 50 keragramams @ 4 per keragramam. Assistance can be proportionately given to units of smaller size also.

Assistance Rs. 10000/- can also be given for the production of organic manure without construction of pits as in the case of Trichoderma enriched FYM which is found to be effective against many fungal diseases like bud rot, leaf rot etc. By converting the piled up FYM which are the breeding sites of Rhinoceros beetles to enriched FYM, the pest incidence can be reduced. The assistance is given for shed size of 10x5 ft and for inputs and inoculants .

An amount of Rs.20.00 lakh @ 0.4 lakh per keragramam is set apart for this component.

**The components 1 to 4 above are interchangeable as per local requirements without**

**exceeding the total financial limit and rate of assistance subject to the approval of the technical resource group.**

5) Operational support to Krishi Bhavans.

During the current financial year, the programme will be implemented in an area of 5000 ha. in selected 50 units @100ha/Keragramam. Expenditure for the conduct of cluster formation, cluster trainings, trainings, meetings, DTP outsourcing and other unforeseen related expenses can be met from the funds under this sub-component, for which an amount of Rs 3.5 lakh @ Rs.7000/- per Krishi Bhavan/Keragramam is earmarked.

6) Assistance for panchayat level Kera samithies/societies :

(a) An amount of Rs.150.00 lakhs is earmarked to provide assistance to 50 nos of Kera samithies/ societies formed in each Keragramam at the rate of Rs.3.00 lakh per Kera samithy/ society for their establishment and to organise activities on a group approach for the cultural operations, application of manures and fertilisers, plant protection and other unforeseen expenses. Action plan/projects for the group activities should be prepared by the concerned Agricultural Officers and implemented with the approval of Block level Assistant Director of Agriculture. The expenditure for registration of new samithies, campaigns, trainings, meetings, survey and other office related expenditure can also be met from this component. However, purchase of computer and accessories, office furniture etc. should not be met from this component.

The amount can also be utilised for undertaking activities related to coconut husk procurement and working capital to establish a coir processing unit or any other value addition or processing unit as mentioned in 6(b) at the rate of Rs.2.0 lakh per Kera samithy. The assistance can be extended to a group/society or a SHG willing to undertake this activity under Keragramam. This activity can be linked with the schemes of the Coir Development department and can avail assistance based on group approach or as working capital for value addition and agro processing units.

(b) Value addition and Agro processing :-

Value addition and Agro processing are regarded as sunrise sector of Kerala economy in view of its large potential for economic growth. Value addition or Food processing units like elaneer parlour (tender coconut), coconut oil, Virgin coconut oil, coconut milk cream, coconut palm jaggery, shell charcoal, shell powder, vinegar, handy crafts etc shall be started with the available working capital of Rs.2.00 lakh given to kerasamithies with or without the support of SFAC.

The scheme will be implemented in 50 units of 100 ha each. The assistance is limited to 25.67 lakh per Keragramam and an amount of Rs. 1283.5 lakh is set apart.

Cafeteria of Funds for Keragramam					
Sl.no	Components	Subsidy per unit	one Keragramam		50 keragramams
			Physical	Financial (in lakh)	Financial(in lakh)
	Area / Keragramam		100ha		
	Palms / keragramam @ 175 palm /ha		17500 nos		
1)	<b>Integrated management of</b>				

L20340/2023

a	<b>Coconut gardens</b> Intercultural Operations- opening of coconut basins, weeding, mulching etc (50% subsidy )	Rs 35/palm	17500 nos	The components may be judiciously selected as per local needs. Subsidy to the components (a) to (g) is limited to Rs.19200/- per ha under the state plan share, for covering an area of 5000 ha @ 100 ha/ Keragramam.	An amount of Rs.960 lakh is set apart for the above 7 sub components (a to g) under Integrated Management of Coconut Gardens under the state plan share , for 50 nos of Keragramams @ Rs 19.2 lakh per Keragramam unit.
b	Coconut husk burial for moisture conservation (50% subsidy@)	Rs.50/palm	17500 nos		
c	Intercropping in coconut garden (50% subsidy )	Rs.6000/ha	100ha		
d	<b><u>INM activities : Soil test based approach</u></b>				
	1) Soil ameliorants (Lime/ Dolomite) (75% subsidy)	Rs.9/palm	17500 nos		
	2) Fertilizers / Biofertilisers (50% subsidy)	Rs.20 /palm	17500 nos		
	3) Magnesium sulphate (50% subsidy )/Secondary and micronutrients	Rs.3.75 per palm	17500 nos		
	4) Organic manure (50% subsidy )	Rs.25 /palm	17500 nos		
e	<b><u>IPDM activities :</u></b>				
	1)PPC operation (50% subsidy )	Rs.10 per palm	17500 nos		
	2)Appln of Pesticides (needbased)/Bio-pesticides & Bio-control agents (50% subsidy @ Rs 25/palm & Rs 50/palm as labour charges)	Rs.75 per palm	17500 nos		
f	Cut & removal of disease affected,old and senile palms ( @ Rs 1000/palm limited to Rs 10000/ha)	Rs.1000 per palm	1000 nos		
g	Replanting with good quality seedlings (50% subsidy limited to 7 palms /ha)	Rs 60/ seedling	700 nos		
	<b>State plan share A Limited to Rs .19200/ha.</b>			<b>19.2</b>	<b>960</b>
2)	Installation of irrigation Components including micro irrigation (50% subsidy limited for 10 ha/ keragramam	Rs 25000/ha	10 ha	2.5	125
3)	Coconut climbing equipment for clusters (subsidy for 25 units \ Keragramam	Rs 2000/unit	25nos	0.5	25
	Est: of Organic manure production units/Production	Rs			

L20340/2023

4)	of Enriched FYM - subsidy for 4 units / Keragramam	10000/unit	4nos	0.4	20
5)	Operational support @ Rs 7000/ KB/KG			0.07	3.5
6)	Assistance for panchayat level samithies/ societies@ Rs.3.00lakh per unit( assistance for coconut husk procurement and mini coir processing units /Processing/Value addition units)			3	150
	<b>State Plan share B</b>			<b>6.47</b>	<b>323.5</b>
	<b>Total State plan share A+B</b>			<b>25.67</b>	<b>1283.5</b>

### B. KERA RAKSHA VAARAM:

Kera Raksha vaaram will be conducted throughout the state covering new and existing coconut plantations under the programme. Thrust will be given to areas where keragramam activities have been initiated in the previous and current years, since they are the major coconut growing tracts in the state. However, campaign activities are to be organised in other areas also.

As part of KERA RAKSHA VAARAM, Integrated nutrient management and Pest and Disease management activities are sanctioned to be carried in a campaign mode throughout the state as in the previous year.

As part of this campaign activity, green manuring is the major activity sanctioned to be conducted in coconut gardens throughout the State. Green manure refers to the plant material incorporated with soil while green or soon after maturity for improving the soil to supply nutrients. It is the practice of ploughing and incorporating the undecomposed green plant tissue into the soil for improving the structure and fertility of soil through fixing of atmospheric nitrogen to soil. Besides it is also useful as fodder, cover crop and erosion control. Most of green manure crops are capable of growing in water stress condition. Green manure seeds like Cowpea, Daincha, Sesbania, Sunhemp etc will be given for application in the basins of 15 lakh palms. Assistance at the rate of Rs.6.25 per palm amounting to Rs. 93.75 lakh is provided.

In the Kera Raksha Vaaram campaign, another important activity is the pest and disease management affecting the production and productivity of coconut in our state. Last year, awareness campaigns were conducted for creating maximum awareness among the farmers regarding Crown cleaning and Pest and disease management. This year integrated pest and disease management activities like crown cleaning and application of bio pesticides, release of bio control agents if necessary is sanctioned to be implemented as part of Kera Raksha vaaram. Assistance is also given for the labour component which is major hindrance in the adoption of control measures. Crown cleaning is very important because the crown harbour the pests and diseases and hence effective control measures must be adopted for the control of these major pests of Coconut namely Red Palm Weevil and Rhinoceros beetle. The Red palm weevil is one of the most destructive pests of coconut and its control is very difficult. The management of red palm weevil requires a combination of cultural, chemical and semi-chemical control measures and prevention of attack is better than control. Preventive methods include field sanitation,



L20340/2023

preventing wounding of palm and mass trapping using Pheromone traps. Similar to Red Palm Weevil, the Rhinoceros beetle is another major pest of coconut palms with adults feeding on leaves and burrowing into the crown thereby stunting plant development. As with Red Palm Weevil, control measures range from cultural, chemical, biological and use of pheromone traps. Kera Raksha Vaaram is an integration of activities of coconut garden by integrating Keragramam, CDB, LSGD projects, Njangalum Krishiyilekku programme. For this an amount of Rs.75.00 per palm is given which includes Rs.25 for PPC/Biopesticide and Rs. 50/- as climbing charge. Under this component, 7.5 lakh Palms are covered. Priority may be given for areas with reports of high pest and disease incidence.

<b>Activities for Kera Raksha Vaaram 2021-22</b>			
Sl.no	Components	Physical	Financial( in lakh)
1	Pulses/Legumes/Green manure seeds @ Rs.6.25 / palm	15 lakh palms	93.75
2	Crown cleaning and PPC bio pesticides application including labour charge Rs.75 /-per palm(Rs.50/-per palm as labour charge)	7.5 lakh palms	562.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>656.25</b>

### **C. Coconut Seedling Production in Aralam Farm – Fourth year assistance:**

The main objective is to produce coconut seedlings to be distributed to farmers under Coconut Development Council. An amount of Rs.200 lakh has been sanctioned as per G.O (Rt)No.85/2021/Agri dated 28/01/2021 and G.O (Rt)no.91/2022/Agri dated 07/2/2022 for the production of 2.5 lakh coconut seedlings over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 and accordingly, Rs 49.35 lakh, Rs.77.3806 lakh and Rs.54.6806 lakh has been provided as assistance for coconut seed nut procurement and nursery management activities of Aralam Farming Corporation in the last three years respectively. These funds have been utilized for procurement of seed nuts and for meeting nursery management expenses. During 2023-24, Rs.16.8369 lakh will be given as fourth year assistance under Coconut Development Programme.

Year	Project cost (Rs. In lakh)
2020-21	49.35
2021-22	77.3806
2022-23	54.6806
2023-24	16.8369

L20340/2023

2024-25	1.752
Total	200.00

#### **D.Coconut seedling distribution as part of Coconut Development Council :**

Good and High yielding varieties of coconut seedlings produced by Government agencies like Department Farms, Kerala Agrl.University, CDB and Aralam Farming corporation is to be distributed to farmers with a vision of increasing the area under coconut. In order to achieve the vision of bringing additional area of 1.44 lakh Ha under coconut, Government of Kerala, Vide G.O. (Ms) No. 138/2018 /Agri dated 21/11/2018 has constituted the Coconut Development Council for improving the Production, Productivity and overall development of coconut sector. The fourth year activities of Coconut Development Council includes the distribution of coconut seedlings (WCT, Dwarf, Hybrid) to farmers at 50% subsidy.

An amount of Rs. 848 lakh is kept apart for meeting the cost of seedlings (14,30,664 nos) and transportation charges (Rs.18.1805 lakh for distribution of seedlings. As the amount available under this account head for meeting transportation cost is very less, the transportation cost can also be met from the logistics head of account 2401-00-104-91 given for transportation of all farm items.

#### **Mode of implementation:-**

The following guidelines will be followed for the implementation of Keragramam and Kera Raksha Vaaram :

- A compact area approach with an extent of 100 ha shall be selected for the implementation of the scheme. All small and marginal farmers coming under the selected project area should be included as beneficiaries of the programme based on the suitability of the coconut gardens, irrespective of their land holding size to the maximum possible extent.
- Cluster formed at panchayat level should have a technical resource group for monitoring the implementation of the different components of the programme with Panchayat President as the Chairperson and Agricultural Officer as the Convener. The resource group will be constituted with field level functionaries of the Department of Agriculture, representatives of Kerala Agricultural University, CDB and scientists from Research Stations and DDA (YP) as members
- The President, Vice President, Development Standing Committee Chairman of the LSGD and Agricultural Officer will be the ex-officio members of the Panchayat level Kerasamithi/Society.
- A visit schedule of Agricultural Assistants should be prepared to ensure regular and systematic field visit to the cluster areas in a month.
- Assistance of Multi Disciplinary Diagnostic Team can be availed of, if situation warrants, in consultation with the Principal Agricultural Officer.
- The Panchayat level Technical Resource Group should prepare and finalise a plan of action for taking up the intercultural, manurial application and plant protection activities on a group approach. Accordingly, arrangement of required inputs should be made and an operational chart should be prepared so as to ensure the timely availability and utilization of MGNREGS workforce and skilled labourers of Agro Service Centres/ Karshika Karma Senas.
- Assistance on a pro rata basis, as per holding size, will be utilized for the group activity

L20340/2023

through the clusters and remaining eligible assistance will be released to the farmers concerned through e-payment.

- The beneficiaries of the scheme should be enrolled in the State Crop Insurance scheme.
- Store purchase rules shall be strictly adhered to for all kinds of purchases. Tender/e-tender and other stipulated formalities shall be followed where ever applicable.

The following guidelines are also issued for implementation of the scheme during 2023 24

1. Ward level kera samithies/panchayat level kera samithy may be convened for effective implementation of the scheme
2. The scheme shall be implemented with the approval of panchayat level Agricultural Development Committee in a time bound manner during this cropping season itself.
3. In order to compensate for the crop loss due to natural calamities, farmers are advised to insure their crops as per the State Crop insurance scheme.
4. Farmers are eligible for assistance during three years under Keragramam. If sufficient beneficiaries are not available for second year and third year assistance under Keragramam, a new beneficiary may be selected by Agricultural Officers after ensuring that such farmers have followed scientific management practices during previous years.
5. Also if sufficient area is not available in the selected grama panchayat / LSGD, adjacent LSGDs shall be considered with the approval of Principal Agricultural Officer.
6. The Agricultural Officers shall ensure that farmers have applied all recommended inputs and conducted all cultural operations as envisaged in the scheme. However, Agricultural Officers are not required to purchase the inputs and distribute them to farmers. They are required to advice and monitor the implementation of the scheme in a scientific and time bound manner

**Kera Raksha Vaaram :**

1. Scheme will be implemented statewide during August -September 2023 – 24. Wide spread publicity should be given for this programme. Leaflets and pamphlets will be given to the farmers.
2. It should be ensured that the green manure seeds/pulse seeds distributed under the scheme are applied in the field; hence the details like name and address of farmer, variety and quantity of seeds, subsidy amount, signature of farmer, etc should be maintained.
3. The arrangements for release of bio control agents or use of bio pesticides will be done by the concerned Agricultural Officer and distributed using the support of karshika karma sena /kera samithies /agro service centres.
4. The green manure seeds like cowpea, daincha , sunhemp can be purchased from NSC/ other Government agencies.
5. Green manure seeds/Cowpea seeds @ 20- 25 kg / ha for application in the coconut basins and incorporate before flowering .

#### **Monitoring and Reporting:-**

The Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavans will be responsible for effective implementation of the keragramam and KeraRaksha Vaaram components at Panchayat level. The Assistant Director of Agriculture will monitor the scheme at block level and Deputy Director of Agriculture (YP) at district level. Principal Agricultural Officer will supervise the scheme implementation at district level. Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor the scheme at State level. The ADAs should submit a consolidated block wise report to the DDA (YP) who in turn will submit a detailed report in

L20340/2023

Annexure-3 (first year assistance), and Annexure 4 (Kera Raksha Vaaram) to the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) by 5th of every month. (Reporting and official correspondence in respect of this scheme may be made in the email -id [adatbagridir@gmail.com](mailto:adatbagridir@gmail.com) and [deputydacd@gmail.com](mailto:deputydacd@gmail.com) ).

The Principal Agricultural Officers shall furnish a detailed completion report including the no. of beneficiaries (male, female, SC/ST, general) and utilization certificate in proper format (Annexure 5 &6) immediately on completion of the project.

District wise physical and financial target for Kera Raksha Vaaram and first year Keragramam, is appended Annexure 2 and Annexure1 (The list of selected Keragramams for I yr will be given later) respectively.

**General guidelines for distribution of coconut seedlings, collection and remittance of cost of seedling:**

- The previous instruction that the maximum number of seedlings that can be distributed in a selected panchayat is 75 multiplied by the number of wards in the panchayat need not be strictly adhered to, and the seedlings can be distributed anywhere as per requirement. Accordingly, the 75 number per ward rate of distribution need not be followed.
- The maximum number of seedlings that can be supplied to a farmer has been increased to 175 per ha based on the land holding of the farmer. The Agricultural Officers should ensure the genuinity of the farmers and his area under cultivation. Priority should be given to small and marginal farmers while distributing seedlings.
- The seedlings available in Departmental Farms, should be supplied along with tag. Action should be taken at district level for ensuring that tags are made available to the farms before lifting of seedlings.
- Action should be taken by the Principal Agricultural Officers for procuring seedlings from other districts as per the list attached as **Annexure -7**. The distribution statement of Seedlings should be sent to this office after the seedling allotments for Krishi Bhavans. In case in Corporations/Municipalities where the seedling requirement is less, Principal Agricultural Officer can suitably distribute the seedlings to other Krishi Bhavans. It should be ensured that there are no complaints/reports regarding the short supply of coconut seedlings in these areas.
- Beneficiary selection should be made in consultation with the panchayat level Agriculture Development Committee or panchayat/ municipality/ corporation committee.
- The cost of seedlings as per the Coconut Development Council is Rs. 100/- for WCT and dwarf varieties and Rs. 250/- for hybrids as in previous years. 50% cost will be provided from the budget provision and the balance 50% is to be collected from beneficiaries.
- The Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavans should directly supply the coconut seedlings to the farmers and collect the 50% cost of seedlings through separate receipts printed for this purpose and remit the amount to STSB Account no. 799011400005804 maintained in Sub Treasury, Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram (Treasury Code-104, Customer ID-1855113) in the name of Director of Agriculture.
- The receipt books issued last year may be used for this purpose. In case the required additional receipt books are not received in time, the accounts are to be maintained in a separate register until the receipt books are made available to the Krishi Bhavans. Principal Agricultural Officers should distribute the receipt books to the Krishi Bhavans concerned and instruct Agricultural Officers to remit the amount to the above STSB account.

L20340/2023

- It should be ensured that the seedlings distributed under the scheme are properly maintained in the field; hence the details like name and address of farmer, variety and number of seedlings, address of farm where the seedling was produced, subsidy amount, signature of farmer, etc should be maintained.
- The details of agency wise (farm wise), variety wise number of seedlings distributed, along with invoice number, date, amount and bank details should be consolidated at district level and submitted to Head Quarters as per format available in **Annexure 8** within a period of one month from date of completion of distribution, for settling the subsidy payments to the agency. No changes should be made in the proforma.
- The Principal Agricultural Officer should ensure that the distribution of seedlings is completed by August 31st 2023 and invoices given to the ADAs for payment to agencies may be collected from the ADAs at Block level after due stock entry from the concerned Agricultural Officers and consolidated and submitted to Directorate by the second week of September as delay in obtaining the invoices causes delayed payment to supplying agencies.
- The details of Krishi Bhavan wise details of remittance of beneficiary contribution (Chalan no. and date of remittance along with amount) should be reconciled and consolidated at district level and submitted to Head Quarters as per format available in Annexure III within a period of one month from date of completion of distribution, for settling the beneficiary contribution to the agency. No changes should be made in the proforma.

- Transportation of seedlings and awareness programmes:

The coconut seedlings allotted to the districts from different farms agencies should be distributed to farmers of the Krishi bhavans by the Principal Agricultural Officer/Assistant Director of Agriculture concerned. Transportation of coconut seedlings of coconut of seedlings have to be carried out through department vehicles or private vehicles. Smaller vehicles, preferably may be used for transportation so that seedlings damage can be minimised. Tender procedures should be followed for hiring of vehicles wherever necessary. Assistant Directors of Agriculture should take necessary arrangement for hiring vehicles for distribution of coconut seedlings to the Krishi Bhavans under their control, for which sanction should be accorded by the Principal Agricultural Officers.

An amount of Rs. 18.1805 lakh is earmarked for meeting the cost towards transportation charges and connected expenses such as loading and unloading charges. As the amount available for meeting the cost of transportation charges in this years Budget Provision is less, the amount available under logistics in the head of account 0401-00-104-91 for distribution of farm items is to be availed. The Principal Agricultural Officers should inform the amount required for allotment of funds.

- Implementation and Monitoring

The Agricultural Officer of Krishi Bhavans will be responsible for effective implementation of the scheme at Panchayat level. The Assistant Director of Agriculture will monitor the scheme at block level and Deputy Director of Agriculture (YP) at district level. Principal Agricultural Officer will supervise the scheme implementation at district level. Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor the scheme at State level. The ADAs should submit a consolidated block wise report to the DDA (YP) who in turn will submit a detailed report to the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) every week till distribution is complete. Weekly progress report of physical targets and achievements should be furnished as per Annexure-10 Since Government is giving emphasis to women participation and gender budgeting, maximum efforts have to be made to include women beneficiaries in the scheme. (Reporting and official correspondence in respect of this

L20340/2023

scheme may be made in the email id [adatbagridir@gmail.com](mailto:adatbagridir@gmail.com) and [deputydacd@gmail.com](mailto:deputydacd@gmail.com)).

The Principal Agricultural Officers shall furnish a detailed completion report including the number of beneficiaries (male, female, SC/ST, general) and utilization certificate immediately on completion of the project.

#### Committed expenses of 2022-23 :

Sanction has been obtained for meeting the committed expenses of 2022-23 for an amount of Rs. 1271.98396 lakh including pending claims to the tune of Rs. 698.44265 lakh incurred during the implementation of First year Keragramams and Rs. 573.54131 lakh payable towards the 50% cost of seedlings payable to supplying agencies for the supply of coconut seedlings during 2022-23 .

Sl.no	Components under Committed expenditure of 2022-23	Amount in lakh	Remarks
1.	Keragramam First year	698.44625	
2.	Coconut Council-amount payable to seedling supplying agencies	573.653	An amount of Rs.0.11169 is less
	Total	1272.09565	

Out of the committed claims of Rs.573.653 lakh, only 573.54131 lakh has been sanctioned and the balance amount of Rs.0.11169 lakh will be availed from the savings of cost of distribution of coconut seedlings 2023-24 .

District wise amount under committed expenditure of Keragramam Ist yr (22-23) is as shown in the table below

District	Amount of committed expenditure(Rs in lakh)
TVM	76.90871
KLM	29.98152
PTA	4.67
ALP	51.64801
KTM	34.09619
EKM	53.37574
TSR	76.64753
PKD	46.42596
MLM	143.71744
KKD	71.86988
KNR	88.5551
KSD	20.54657
Total	698.44265

L20340/2023

The Scheme will be implemented by Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) at state level and scheme implementation will be completed by 31/3/2024. An amount of Rs. 10.00 lakh and Rs.5.00 lakh has been earmarked in the Budget provisions for **TE and POL** respectively. The expenditure for the scheme Coconut Development will be debited under the head of account **2401-00-103-87 OC Plan from the current year's budget provision.**

### Abstract of Coconut Development schemes 2023-24

Coconut Development schemes 2023-24			
Sl.no	Component	Nos allotted	Amount allocated(in lakh)
<b>I</b>	<b>I.Comprehensive coconut Rehabilitation and planting programs- rehabilitation and Rejuvenation of coconut palms in kerala as part of coconut mission program</b>		
<b>A</b>	keragramam activities 100 ha per keragramam @ Rs.25.67 lakh per unit	<b>50</b>	<b>1283.5</b>
<b>B</b>	Conduct of State wide Kera Raksha vaaram including expenses towards awareness campaign		<b>656.25</b>
<b>C</b>	Coconut seedling Distribution including transportation charges		<b>848</b>
<b>D</b>	Coconut seedling production in Aralam Farm-Fourth Year Assistance		<b>16.84</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Committed expenditure of 2022-23</b>		<b>1271.98396</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>TE</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>POL</b>		<b>5</b>

L20340/2023

IV	Queue Bills of 2022-23		3.42604
	Total		4095

Sd/-  
**GEORGE SEBASTIAN**

Director of Agriculture i/c

Encl: Annexures 2 to 10- targets and reports

Copy to:

1) All Principal Agricultural Officers for information and n/a  
 TA to Director of Agriculture  
 CAs to Addl.DA(Plg), Addl.DA(CP), Addl.DA(Farms), Addl.DA(Extn),  
 Addl.DA(Mktg), SAE.  
 All Joint Directors of Agriculture (in the Directorate)  
 Principal Information Officer, FIB, Thiruvananthapuram  
 Planning Section, Directorate of Agriculture  
 Finance section  
 IT Cell for publishing in the website.  
 The Managing Director, SFAC (with CL) for information and n/a  
 The Director, Coir Development Department (with CL) for information and  
 n/a

**Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)**