

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers's Welfare

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No.ADFW/7488/2023-TS1

Dated:20-08-2023

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare department –
Scheme on “Development of Spices” 2023-24 – Revised
Working Instructions issued – reg.

- Ref:-
- 1) GO (Rt) No. 465/2023/AGRI dated 17.05.2023.
 - 2) GO (Rt) No. 475/2023/AGRI dated 18.05.2023
 - 3) Circular No. ADFW/7448/2023-TS1 dated 03.08.2023

During the beginning of 14th FYP, the Government had set targets for developing production and productivity of almost all major crops of the state. Increasing the area under spices like pepper, nutmeg, clove etc and area expansion of annual spice crops such as ginger and turmeric have prime importance. Hence, a proposal was submitted by the undersigned to the Government for getting administrative sanction for implementing the scheme 'Development of Spices' during the financial year 2023-24. The Government were please to accord sanction for the same with a budget outlay of Rs. 460.00 lakh under the Head of Account 2401-00-108-59 (P).

As per the reference 3rd cited Working Instruction has been issued for implementation of the scheme "Development of Spices" during 2023-24. The instructions issued is revised and stand modified to the extent as indicated below.

1. Area expansion of black pepper (132 .00 Lakh)

- a) This scheme component is intended only for small and marginal farmers of the State. Applications in the prevailing format along with required land records for ensuring the area are mandatory. Applicant shall be a registered farmer in the AIMS portal.
- b) The existing pepper gardens where augmenting them with planting materials and other inputs for their rejuvenation are required, new areas, area under coconut plantations and other perennial crops where pepper can

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be profitably cultivated as an inter crop etc, can be selected for Implementation of the programme.

c) An assistance to the tune of Rs. 8800/- per hectare can be given for planting materials, critical inputs needed during their planting, prophylactic pest and disease management practices at the time of planting etc. The assistance for the components which are taken up by the farmers themselves shall be disbursed to them as Direct Benefit Transfer / e-payment on the basis of field inspections, verification and necessary certifications by the field level officials of the Department.

d) High yielding varieties of pepper shall be preferred as improving the production and productivity of the crop is of utmost importance.

e) In the case of planting material distribution, the implementing officers shall procure good quality rooted pepper cuttings from the departmental farms and shall be distributed as specified in 1(c) of this circular. In any case, the assistance shall not exceed the rate as specified from the State Scheme Provision, but by integrating this scheme with other schemes in this line like MIDH, LSGI etc. is desirable so as to get maximum benefit for the farmers. There is no restriction that the farmers shall avail benefit from only one scheme.

Note: If sufficient planting materials are not available in the departmental farms for meeting the requirement of the farmers, the implementing officials are having the liberty to procure them from the department sponsored decentralized nurseries, other government agencies and suppliers. However, quality of the same shall be ensured by PAO's by conducting a joint inspection with DDA (YP), DDA (H) and Technical Assistant of all the districts before procuring them by the implementing officers.

f) An amount of Rs. 132.00 Lakh is sanctioned for this component of the scheme for the meeting a minimum requirement of 1500 Ha, and the expenditure in this regard shall be debited from the Head of Account 2401-00-108-59 (P). The district wise targets for the scheme components are appended as Annexure I of this circular.

2. Area expansion of nutmeg (50 .00 Lakh)

(a) Instruction I (a) is applicable here also.

(b) The Agricultural Officers/ AFOs can procure good quality orthotropic nutmeg grafts from the departmental farms, other government agencies, approved nurseries, government sponsored nurseries and can be supplied to eligible farmers. The beneficiary farmers also have the liberty to obtain good quality grafts from any of the sources as mentioned above according to their choice and convenience and in that case, the quality of them shall be ascertained by the departmental officials.

Note: In the case of procurement from the Government approved nurseries, the quality check shall be done by the committee as per instruction I (e) of the circular. If the farmer himself procures them he shall inform the source well in advance to the AO's / AFOs for initiating and completing the quality check. If the approved nursery falls outside the jurisdiction of the district, the committee of the concerned district shall do the procedure and inform the concerned.

c) The maximum rate of assistance per graft shall be Rs. 250/- per graft or the actual cost whichever is less. In the case of procurement by the farmers themselves the eligible financial assistance shall be passed on to them by e-payment procedure after proper evaluation and certification by the field level officials.

d) It must be observed that, only good quality grafts are being given to farmers/ brought by them. The register pertaining to this scheme shall have the following information for future references and monitoring.

i. GIS location of the farm.

ii. Variety and source of grafts

iii. Approximate age of the grafts at the time of planting.

iv. Expected time for getting the full yield from them.

e) The Assistant Directors of Agriculture of the Block concerned shall get a copy of the relevant pages of the register before initiating the payment.

f) The AOs/AFOs shall issue standing instructions for managing the

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nutmeg farms as per package of practices published by the KAU.

i. Nutmeg requires a hot, humid climate without pronounced dry season. The soil should be rich in organic matter and well drained.

ii. The tree prefers partial shade. Sheltered valleys are the best suited. It can be grown up to about 900 M above MSL. For planting, since the nutmeg trees require shade, suitable fast growing shade trees like Albizia, Erythrina etc are to be planted in advance. Banana can also be grown as a shade crop in the early stages. Suitable coconut plantations shall be given preference.

iii. Pits of 90 cm x 90 cm x 90 cm are dug at a spacing of 8 m x 8 m with the onset of southwest monsoon. The pits are filled with topsoil and compost or well decomposed cattle manure and seedlings are planted.

iv. Manuring - Apply 10 kg cattle manure or compost per seedling during the first year. Increase the quantity gradually till a well grown tree of 15 years and above receives 50 kg of organic manures per year. Apply N:P₂O₅:K₂O@20:18:50 g/plant during the first year. This may be doubled in the next year. Gradually increase the N:P₂O₅:K₂O dose to 500:250:1000 g/plant/year to obtain full dose from 15th year onwards.

(Note: Fertilizer application shall be as per soil test data only)

v. Harvesting- Fruits are available throughout the year, but the peak period of harvest is from June to July. When fruits are fully ripe, the nuts split open. These are either plucked from the tree or allowed to drop.

g. It is sanctioned to establish nutmeg in an area of 125 Ha with financial assistance @ Rs 40000/Ha with a financial outlay of Rs 50 .00 Lakh during 2023-24 for implementing this component of the scheme and the targets for the same are appended as Annexure II of this circular.

3. Area expansion of clove (34.375 Lakh)

a) Instruction I (a) is applicable here also.

b) The PAOs are directed to establish clove as an intercrop in suitable coconut gardens under their jurisdiction and necessary instructions to the sub offices shall be given by them.

- c) Cost of planting materials at a maximum rate of Rs. 13,750 per hectare is admissible under this scheme component.
- d) For the procurement and distribution of planting materials, the instruction as given under 2(b) shall be adhered to.
- e) The package of practices by KAU shall be the standard for implementing this component of the scheme.
- f) An amount of Rs. 34.375 lakh is sanctioned for this component of the scheme in an area of 250 ha. The targets for the same are appended as Annexure III of this circular.

4. Adoption of integrated and improved management practices

(50.00 Lakh)

- a) Prophylactic spraying against pepper quick wilt is covered under this component. Quick wilt, which is a fungal disease, is one of the main reasons for inflicting heavy losses in the pepper production in the traditional pepper producing areas. The fungus attacks both the root system as well as the aerial parts of the pepper plant. The attack on the root system causes complete damage of the plant within a short span of time.
- b) An integrated approach involving phytosanitation, appropriate cultural practices, preventive measures added with timely chemical control measures are necessary for successful management of the disease. Phytosanitation involves, planting disease free cuttings in new plantations, destruction of infected plant materials by burning, treatment of basins with fungicidal drenching, lime application etc. Cultural practices involve timely tying or pruning of runner before north east monsoon, mulching the basins to prevent rain splash, prevention of water stagnation and facilitating proper drainage in the plantation.
- c) To encourage farmers to take up this prophylactic plant protection activity, assistance shall be provided for prophylactic and curative activities subject to a maximum amount of Rs. 5000/- per hectare including cost of fungicides and labour charge. The programme is proposed to be implemented with the support of Krishikoottams in the service sector, Agro Service centres, Karshika Karma Senas of each area etc.

d) It is targeted to cover an area of 1000 ha, under this scheme component with a financial outlay of Rs. 50.00 lakh and the targets for the same are appended as Annexure IV of this circular.

5. Establishment of decentralized pepper nurseries. (9.00 Lakh)

a) This component of the scheme is intended for farmer groups/ clusters and application in the prevailing format is mandatory.

b) Small scale pepper nurseries with production capacity of 0.25 to 0.5 lakh cuttings per nursery per year shall be operated through Krishikoottams, SHGs, Women Groups, Unemployed youths etc, with technical support from Department of Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University and Research institutions, Central Government institutions, KVKs etc.

c) Rapid Multiplication technology for pepper, serpentine layering etc, shall be adopted.

d) A maximum amount of Rs. 30,000- can be utilized for the establishment of de-centralized pepper nurseries. This amount shall be used for the requirements like establishment of shade houses, preparation of potting mixture, bio-control agents, etc. The unit shall function for at least 3 years from the date of establishment.

e) An amount of Rs. 9.00 lakh is earmarked for providing assistance for the establishment of decentralized nurseries @ Rs. 30,000/- per unit (having production capacity of 0.25 to 0.5 lakh cuttings per annum) on a pro-rata basis during 2023-24. The targets for various districts are appended as Annexure V.

6. Area expansion of ginger and turmeric (Rs 77.79 Lakh)

(a) Instruction I(a) is applicable here also.

(b) The cultivation of ginger and turmeric with high yielding varieties adopting scientific cultural practices is to be undertaken for increasing production and productivity as part of the scheme.

(c) An assistance of Rs. 15,000/- per hectare is sanctioned for planting

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materials, lime, compost/farm yard manure, wood ash, bio fertilizers and bio control agents. Biocontrol agents (biopesticides) are to be procured from the State Biocontrol Laboratory, Mannuthy and bio fertilizers shall be purchased from approved sources like laboratories/farms of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University. Central Government institutions and licensed agencies.

(d) An amount of Rs. 77.79 Lakh is sanctioned for a total minimum area of 518.6 Ha and the targets for the same are appended an Annexure VI of this circular.

7. Operational Expenses (1.125 Lakh)

An amount of Rs 1.125 lakh is set apart for meeting the operational expenses for implementation of the various scheme components. The amount for meeting operational expenses allocated to Principal Agricultural Officers is appended as Annexure V11

8. Amount put under e-LAMS

(a) An amount of Rs. 105.71 Lakh was placed under e-LAMS as per ref.3 cited.

(b) Immediate steps are to be taken to disburse amount and the completion report shall be sent to the undersigned,

9. Financial abstract of the scheme.

(a) The detailed financial abstract of the scheme components is presented below.

Sl.No.	Name of the component	Rate per unit	No. of units	Amount (Rs. Lakh)
1	Area expansion of pepper	Rs 8800/ha	1500 ha.	132.00
2	Area expansion of nutmeg	Rs 40000/- ha.	125ha.	50.00
3	Area expansion of clove	Rs 13750/ha.	250 ha.	34 .375
4	Adoption of integrated and improved	Rs 5000/ha.	1000 ha.	50.00

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	management practices			
5	Establishment of decentralized nurseries	Rs 30000/- unit	Pro rata	9.00
6	Area expansion of ginger & Turmeric	Rs 15000/ha	518.6 ha.	77.79
7	Operational Expenses	-	-	1.125
8	Amount kept under e-LAMS	-	-	105.71
	Total	-	-	460.00

(b). An amount of Rs 460.00 Lakh is available in the budget provision of 2023-24 under the Head of Account 2401-00-108-59 (P) and the expenditure in this regard shall be debited from it.

10. Scheme Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

(a) The Project Manager of this scheme shall be the Additional Director(CP) and the district level monitoring shall be done by DDA(H) under the concerned PAOs.

(b) The scheme shall be implemented through the Krishi Bhavan of the state . Wide publicity shall be given through mass media. Assistant Director of Agriculture will co-ordinate and supervise the programme at the Block level.

(c) The fund release shall be based on actual requirement, and the fund released should not be parked at any level.

(d) Regular field visits are to be conducted at the field level. The nodal DDAs. And concerned ADAs shall conduct periodical inspections and evaluations.

(e) All PAOs are directed to conduct field inspections for monitoring the programme implementation.

Annexure I– Area expansion of pepper @8800/ha

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical(ha.)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	110.00	9.68

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2	Kollam	100.00	8.8
3	Pathanamthitta	95.00	8.36
4	Alappuzha	90.00	7.92
5	Kottayam	115.00	10.12
6	Idukki	150.00	13.2
7	Ernakulam	90.00	7.92
8	Thrissur	145.00	12.76
9	Palakkad	35.00	3.080
10	Malappuram	100.00	8.8
11	Kozhikkode	110.00	9.68
12	Wayanad	135.00	11.88
13	Kannur	150.00	13.2
14	Kasargod	75.00	6.6
	TOTAL	1,500.00	132.00

Annexure II – Area expansion of nutmeg @ 40000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical(ha.)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	9.00	3.60
2	Kollam	9.00	3.60
3	Pathanamthitta	8.00	3.20
4	Alappuzha	8.00	3.20
5	Kottayam	9.00	3.60
6	Idukki	10.00	4.00
7	Ernakulam	8.00	3.20
8	Thrissur	10.00	4.00
9	Palakkad	8.00	3.20
10	Malappuram	9.00	3.60
11	Kozhikkode	9.00	3.60
12	Wayanad	10.00	4.00
13	Kannur	10.00	4.00
14	Kasargode	8.00	3.20
	TOTAL	125.00	50.00

Annexure III – Area expansion of Clove @13750/ha

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical(ha.)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	17.00	2.33750
2	Kollam	17.00	2.33750

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		17.00	2.33750
3	Pathanamthitta	17.00	2.33750
4	Alappuzha	17.00	2.33750
5	Kottayam	17.00	2.33750
6	Idukki	20.00	2.75000
7	Ernakulam	17.00	2.33750
8	Thrissur	20.00	2.75000
9	Palakkad	17.00	2.33750
10	Malappuram	17.00	2.33750
11	Kozhikkode	17.00	2.33750
12	Wayanad	20.00	2.75000
13	Kannur	20.00	2.75000
14	Kasargode	17.00	2.33750
	TOTAL	250.00	34.375

Annexure IV – Target for the adoption of improved management practices @5000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical(ha.)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	90.00	4.50
2	Kollam	60.00	3.00
3	Pathanamthitta	50.00	2.50
4	Alappuzha	50.00	2.50

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5	Kottayam	60.00	3.00
6	Idukki	110.00	5.50
7	Ernakulam	60.00	3.00
8	Thrissur	90.00	4.50
9	Palakkad	60.00	3.00
10	Malappuram	70.00	3.50
11	Kozhikkode	65.00	3.25
12	Wayanad	110.00	5.50
13	Kannur	75.00	3.75
14	Kasargod	50.00	2.50
	TOTAL	1,000.00	50.00

Annexure V – Establishment of decentralized nurseries @30000/nursery

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical (Units)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	2.00	0.60
2	Kollam	2.00	0.60
3	Pathanamthitta	1.00	0.30
4	Alappuzha	1.00	0.30
5	Kottayam	2.00	0.60
6	Idukki	2.00	0.60
7	Ernakulam	2.00	0.60
8	Thrissur	3.00	0.90
9	Palakkad	2.00	0.60
10	Malappuram	2.00	0.60
11	Kozhikkode	3.00	0.90
12	Wayanad	4.00	1.2
13	Kannur	2.00	0.6
14	Kasargode	2.00	0.6
	TOTAL	30.00	9.00

Annexure VI – Area expansion of Ginger and Turmeric @15000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the district	Physical(ha.)	Financial (Rs. Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	20.00	3.00
2	Kollam	20.00	3.00
3	Pathanamthitta	20.00	3.00
4	Alappuzha	30.00	4.50
5	Kottayam	40.00	6.00
6	Idukki	70.00	10.50

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7	Ernakulam	40.00	6.00
8	Thrissur	20.00	3.00
9	Palakkad	35.00	5.25
10	Malappuram	40.00	6.00
11	Kozhikkode	40.00	6.00
12	Wayanad	103.60	15.54
13	Kannur	20.00	3.00
14	Kasargod	20.00	3.00
	TOTAL	518.60	77.79

Annexure VII – Operational Expenses (1.125 Lakh)

Sl.No	Name of the district	Operational Expenses (Rs Lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	0.08036
2	Kollam	0.08036
3	Pathanamthitta	0.08036
4	Alappuzha	0.08036
5	Kottayam	0.08036
6	Idukki	0.08036
7	Ernakulam	0.08036
8	Thrissur	0.08036
9	Palakkad	0.08036
10	Malappuram	0.08036
11	Kozhikkode	0.08036
12	Wayanad	0.08036
13	Kannur	0.08036
14	Kasargod	0.08029

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	TOTAL	1.125
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GEORGE SEBASTIAN
Director of Agriculture i/c

To

All Additional Directors of Agriculture & SAE

Copy to:

1. To All PAO's
2. TA to Director
3. Senior Finance Officer
4. Planning Section for allotment of funds
5. SW & M&E Section
6. Finance, Accounts and Audit Sections
7. All Technical Sections
8. IT Cell (for publishing in website)
9. Stock file.



Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)