

**Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare**

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No:-ADFW/7488/2023-TS1

Date:03-08-2023

**CIRCULAR**

Sub:- Agricultural Development and Farmers' Welfare Department-Scheme on "Development of Spices"-2023-2 - Working Instructions issued – reg.

Ref:- 1) G O(Rt) No.465/2023/AGRI dated. 17.05.2023  
2) G.O(Rt) No.475/2023/AGRI dated. 18/05/2023

During the beginning of 14<sup>th</sup> 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 pleased 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).

Under these circumstances, the following instructions are given for compliance at all levels and the timely implementation of the scheme.

**I. Area expansion of black pepper**

(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 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



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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 PAOs 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 form 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**

(a). Instruction 1 (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 1 (e) of the circular. If the farmer himself procures them, he shall inform the source well in advance to the AOs / 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. 250.00 per graft or the actual cost of it 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 / bought 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.



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

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

(f). The AOs / AFOs shall issue standing instructions for managing the nutmeg farms as per the following package of practices as 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: Fertiliser 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 250 ha., with a financial outlay of Rs. 100.00 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

(a). Instruction 1 (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.



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(f). An amount of Rs. 34.375 lakh is sanctioned for this component of the scheme the targets for the same are appended as Annexure III of this circular.

#### **4. Adoption of integrated and improved management practices**

(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 decentralised pepper nurseries.**

(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 utilised for the establishment of recentralised 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. 10.125 lakh is sanctioned for providing assistance for the establishment of decentralized nurseries @ Rs.30,000/- per unit (having production



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capacity 0.5 lakh cuttings per annum) on a pro-rata basis with financial outlay of Rs.10.125 lakh during 2023-24. The targets for various districts are appended as Annexure V.

#### 6. Area expansion of ginger and turmeric.

(a). Instruction 1 (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. Rs.15,000/- per hectare is sanctioned for planting 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. 27.75 lakh is sanctioned for a total minimum area of 185 ha., and the targets for the same are appended as Annexure VI of this circular.

#### 7. Amount put under e-LAMS

(a). An amount of Rs. 105.72 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.

#### 8. Miscellaneous and operational expenses for the scheme implementation

An amount of Rs. 0.04 lakh is placed at the disposal of Directorate.

#### 9. Financial abstract of the scheme

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

| Sl. No. | Name of the components                                   | 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.  | 250 ha.      | 100.00            |
| 3       | Area expansion of clove                                  | Rs. 13750/ ha.   | 350 ha.      | 34.375            |
| 4       | Adoption of integrated and improved management practices | Rs. 5000/ ha.    | 1000 ha.     | 50.00             |
| 5       | Establishment of decentralized nurseries                 | Rs. 30000 / unit | Pro rata     | 10.125            |
| 6       | Area expansion of ginger & Turmeric                      | 15000 / ha.      | 185 ha.      | 27.75             |
| 7       | Amount kept under e-LAMS                                 |                  |              | 105.71            |
|         | Miscellaneous  |                  |              | 0.04              |
|         | <b>Total</b>   |                  |              | <b>460.00</b>     |

(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.



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**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 Bhavans 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.

sd/-

**ANJU K S IAS**  
Director of Agriculture

To:

All Additional Directors of Agriculture &amp; SAE

Copy to:

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

② To All PAO'S

**Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)**

**Annexure I - Area expansion of pepper**

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 110.00000      | 8.36000              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 100.00000      | 8.80000              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 95.00000       | 7.04000              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 90.00000       | 6.60000              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 115.00000      | 8.80000              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 150.00000      | 13.20000             |
| 7      | ERM                  | 90.00000       | 7.92000              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 145.00000      | 12.76000             |
| 9      | PKD                  | 35.00000       | 8.36000              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 100.00000      | 8.80000              |



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|       |      |           |          |
|-------|------|-----------|----------|
| 11    | KKD  | 110.00000 | 9.68000  |
| 12    | WND  | 135.00000 | 11.88000 |
| 13    | KNR  | 150.00000 | 13.20000 |
| 14    | KSGD | 75.00000  | 6.60000  |
| Total |      | 1500.000  | 132.000  |

## Annexure II - Area expansion of Nutmeg

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 9.00000        | 3.60000              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 9.00000        | 3.60000              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 8.00000        | 3.20000              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 8.00000        | 3.20000              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 9.00000        | 9.00000              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 10.00000       | 4.00000              |
| 7      | ERM                  | 8.00000        | 3.20000              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 10.00000       | 4.00000              |
| 9      | PKD                  | 8.00000        | 3.20000              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 9.00000        | 3.60000              |
| 11     | KKD                  | 9.00000        | 3.60000              |
| 12     | WND                  | 10.00000       | 4.00000              |
| 13     | KNR                  | 10.00000       | 4.00000              |
| 14     | KSGD                 | 8.00000        | 3.20000              |
| Total  |                      | 125.000        | 50.000               |

## Annexure III - Area expansion of clove

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 20.00000       | 2.75000              |
| 7      | ERM                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 20.00000       | 2.75000              |
| 9      | PKD                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |
| 11     | KKD                  | 17.00000       | 2.33750              |



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|    |       |          |         |
|----|-------|----------|---------|
| 12 | WND   | 20.00000 | 2.75000 |
| 13 | KNR   | 20.00000 | 2.75000 |
| 14 | KSGD  | 17.00000 | 2.33750 |
|    | Total | 250.000  | 34.375  |

## 10 Annexure IV - Target for the adoption of improved management practices

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 90.00000       | 4.50000              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 60.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 50.00000       | 2.50000              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 50.00000       | 2.50000              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 60.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 110.00000      | 5.50000              |
| 7      | ERM                  | 60.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 90.00000       | 4.50000              |
| 9      | PKD                  | 60.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 70.00000       | 3.50000              |
| 11     | KKD                  | 65.00000       | 3.25000              |
| 12     | WND                  | 110.00000      | 5.50000              |
| 13     | KNR                  | 75.00000       | 3.75000              |
| 14     | KSGD                 | 50.00000       | 2.50000              |
|        | Total                | 1000.00000     | 50.00000             |

## 10 Annexure V - Establishment of decentralized nurseries

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 1.00000        | 0.30000              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 1.00000        | 0.30000              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 7      | ERM                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 3.00000        | 0.90000              |
| 9      | PKD                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 2.00000        | 0.60000              |
| 11     | KKD                  | 3.00000        | 0.90000              |
| 12     | WND                  | 4.00000        | 1.20000              |




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|       |      |          |         |
|-------|------|----------|---------|
| 13    | KNR  | 2.00000  | 0.60000 |
| 14    | KSGD | 2.00000  | 0.60000 |
| Total |      | 30.00000 | 9.000   |

## Annexure VI - Area expansion of Ginger &amp; Turmeic

| Sl. No | Name of the District | Physical (ha.) | Financial (Rs. Lakh) |
|--------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1      | TVM                  | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 2      | KLM                  | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 3      | PTA                  | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 4      | ALP                  | 30.00000       | 4.50000              |
| 5      | KTM                  | 40.00000       | 6.00000              |
| 6      | IDK                  | 70.00000       | 10.50000             |
| 7      | ERM                  | 40.00000       | 6.00000              |
| 8      | TCR                  | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 9      | PKD                  | 35.00000       | 5.25000              |
| 10     | MPM                  | 40.00000       | 6.00000              |
| 11     | KKD                  | 40.00000       | 6.00000              |
| 12     | WND                  | 103.60000      | 15.54000             |
| 13     | KNR                  | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| 14     | KSGD                 | 20.00000       | 3.00000              |
| Total  |                      | 518.600        | 77.790               |

  
Additional Director of Agriculture (CP)