

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

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No:ADFW/8983/2023-TF2

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**CIRCULAR**

Sub:- Annual Plan 2023-24 - Modernization of Departmental Laboratories - Working instructions issued - Reg.

Ref:- 1) G.O (Rt) No.456/2022/Agri dated 26/05/2022  
2) Order no ADFW/4586/2023-TP2 dated 24/06/2023 of Director of Agri.  
3) Annual Plan 2023-24

As per the reference 1 cited, the Government have accorded Administrative Sanction for the implementation of the scheme 'Modernization of Departmental Laboratories' during 2022-23 and the undersigned have accorded continuous administrative sanction during 2023-24 with a total cost of Rs 400 lakh, out of which Rs 90 lakh is sanctioned for the strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories. This scheme aims at the testing of soil samples and giving soil test-based recommendations as one of the objectives. Necessary funds are available under the head of account 2401-00-105-86 Plan for, which the following directions are issued for compliance.

The scheme is intended to cover 14 numbers of District Soil Testing Laboratories, 11 numbers of Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories and Central Soil and Plant Health Centre which are functioning in the state for analyzing the soil samples from the farm holdings and prescribing soil test based nutrient application in a time bound manner.

**1. Collection and analysis of soil samples**

(a) All Principal Agricultural Officers of the 14 districts are directed to issue instructions to Krishi bhavans under their jurisdiction stating that the Agricultural Assistants shall collect at least 100 soil samples from their jurisdiction of activity during a year. The samples shall be collected and send to analysis observing all the scientific principles of collection and processing. The Agricultural Officers of the Krishi bhavans shall ensure the timely collection and submission of soil samples to the respective analytical laboratories by giving proper orders to the Agricultural Assistants of their offices.

(b). As per the reference 3 cited, the Government were pleased to accord administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme 'Farm plan based production programme and development of model farms'. As a first step, ten farms from each Krishi bhavan would be selected and developed as 'Model Plots' and suitable working instructions in this regard would be issued in due course. It is directed that, the soil samples from these plots are to be regularly collected and analysed for nutrient status

including micro nutrients and soil health cards issued. At least these samples are to be collected at six month intervals to monitor the health and nutrient status of the soil of the model farms under the above said scheme. This is inclusive of the regular target of soil sample collection as given under 1(a) of this circular.

## **2. Submission of samples to the analyzing laboratory**

(a) The Chief Soil Chemist is hereby directed to issue proper targets to the various laboratories for testing the samples received as per para 1 of this circular. A proper assessment of the capacity of analysis of each laboratory shall be done and the same shall be communicated to the undersigned within two weeks of the issue of this circular. The Officer in charge of laboratories shall communicate the plan of analysis of soil sample analysis per month – with their requirement of samples per a period of four months to the Chief Soil Chemist. The minimum number of samples which are to be analyzed by a Scientific Assistant is fixed as 2400 per year @ 200 samples per month. Regular inspections by the Chief Soil Chemist are to be carried out to assure the quality of analysis being carried out at different laboratories. The number of such inspections and the name of laboratories and the remarks are to be furnished to the undersigned in a monthly basis without fail.

(b) The collection of soil samples shall be done at the Krishi bhavan level. In order to assure the regularity of testing and report generation and to avoid undue delay caused by analysis; a plan is to be formulated by the Chief Soil Chemist in consultation with the Officers in charge of the laboratories and same shall be communicated to the Assistant Directors of Agriculture of different Blocks so that the sample collection and submission can be done as per the requirement of the labs. The suggested periodicity of lifting the processed samples from Krishi Bhavans is once in four months ending at June–July, September–October and December–January. No regular sample collection shall go beyond the month of January.

(c) The Assistant Soil Chemists shall take necessary steps to lift the samples from the Krishi bhavans as per the soil sample collection and analysis plan.

## **3. Strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories to carry out the analysis of Samples efficiently and timebound.**

(a) It is directed that the Chief Soil Chemist shall ensure the proper functioning of all the laboratories under his/her jurisdiction by providing necessary consumables including chemicals, providing funds for proper service and repair of the equipments and Machinery, necessary infrastructural facilities etc., from the sanctioned financial provisions. No facility and or equipment shall be kept idle and necessary directions in this regard shall be given to the officers in charge of the laboratories by the Chief Soil

Chemist. The following directions are issued for the smooth functioning of the laboratories.

(b) An amount of Rs. 90 lakh is provided for the strengthening of these laboratories under the Head of Account 2401-00-105-86 Plan for carrying out the following activities.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	Pooled purchase of filter paper	2.00
2	Pooled purchase of chemicals	2.00
3	Purchase of postage stamps	0.10
4	Hiring of vehicles	0.50
5	Repair of equipments	10.00
6	Annual Maintenance Cost	13.00
7	Special Requirement of CSPHC	5.00
8	Purchase of glass wares, poly wares and other need based purchases	4.00
9	Special requirement of DSTL and MSTL	10.00
10	Infrastructure Development of labs	10.00648
	Total (A)	56.60648
	Committed Expenditures of the financial year 2022-23 (B)	31.24143
	Queue bill amount	2.15389
	<b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B)</b>	<b>90.00</b>

(c) The Chief Soil Chemist is directed to ensure the timely implementation of The implementation of the various programmes under the scheme with a definite action plan and calendar of activities in advance, which has to be sanctioned by the undersigned, and this shall reflect in the monthly booking of expenditure from this quarter on wards.

(d) Chief Soil Chemist will take urgent steps for Pooled Purchase of Filter purchase of chemicals, Purchase of equipments etc by observing store purchase Rules and utilizing funds as above. Chief Soil Chemist is directed to allot funds to Assistant Soil Chemist of 14 district Soil Testing Laboratories and 11 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories for repair of equipments, AMC of equipments, purchase of glass wares, polythene wares

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and other need based expenses, postage stamps, hiring of vehicles, POL, infrastructure development, Special requirements of District Soil Testing Laboratories and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories including refilling of gas cylinders, repair and maintenance of computers, repair and maintenance of lab vehicles and other need based expenses etc., based on their requirement.

(e) The fund set apart for Special requirement of CSPHC shall be utilized for repair and maintenance of Laboratory equipments, expenses for conducting conferences, running and maintenance of diesel generator, repair and maintenance of vehicle, requirement of special equipments like Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer and other equipments of CSPHC.

#### **4. Integration with the campaign-‘*Njangalum Krishiyilekku*’**

As per the reference 3 cited, the Government have issued orders for conducting campaign on mobilizing public in to farming activities. All the Principal Agricultural Officers are hereby directed to issue necessary instructions to the field level staff to integrate the activity of soil sample collection along with the activities of ‘*Njangalum Krishiyilekku*’ programme. The Krishikkoottams shall be given trainings on soil sample collection and submission of the same. The samples shall be collected from the cultivation areas of different ‘Krishikkoottams’ for analysis and the results be communicated to the group in a time bound manner as per the routine soil sample collection and analysis.

#### **5. Communication of the test results, recommendations and soil health cards**

The results of the samples analyzed by the laboratory are to be furnished with suitable recommendations and prescriptions within seven days of completion of analysis. The report shall be furnished in electronic mode. The soil health cards are to be generated and issued by entering the test report and results in the portal [www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in](http://www.soilhealth.dac.gov.in). The number of soil health cards distributed and the progress report of the same shall be furnished to the undersigned every month.

#### **6. General instructions**

The procedure developed by the Kerala Agricultural University shall be employed for soil sample collection and preparation. Utmost care shall be taken while testing the samples to get accurate results. The results shall be strictly communicated in a time bound manner. Store purchase rules are to be strictly followed while doing the purchases. The reports shall be furnished to the State level before 10th of every month.

#### **7. Project management**

The scheme shall be monitored by the Additional Director of Agriculture (Planning) at the State level. The Chief Soil Chemist shall be the State Level

implementing Officer. The Principal Agricultural Officer assisted by the Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) shall be the monitoring and instructing the officers at the district level. All Assistant Directors of Agriculture at the Block level shall review and monitor the activities at the Krishi bhavan level. The Agricultural Officers shall provide necessary guidance and directions to the Agricultural Assistants for the smooth implementation of the Scheme.

### **8. Financial Outlay**

The amount of Rs. 90 lakh set apart for the implementation of the scheme under the H/A 2401-00-105-86 Plan An amount of Rs.2.15389 lakh is sanctioned for en-cashing treasury queue bills of 2022-23. The Balance amount available is Rs 87.84611 lakh. There are committed claims of the year 2022-23 pending with different laboratories. The total amount for committed claims is Rs 31.24143. Thus, the net amount available for implementation during current years scheme is Rs 56.60468 lakh.

ANJU K S IAS

**DIRECTOR**

To All Additional Directors of Agriculture & SAE  
1) All PAOs and PD (ATMA)  
2) Chief Soil Chemist  
3) Senior Finance Officer  
4) All Assistant Soil Chemists  
5) TA to Director of Agriculture  
6) SW Section, Planning, Audit & Accounts  
7) Stock File / Spare