

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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No: ADFW/8212/2023-TM2

Date: 04-08-2023

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Annual Plan 2023-24 – Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories – Administrative sanction accorded – Detailed Instructions for implementation of the component – Strengthening of State Agmark Grading Laboratories – orders issued.

Ref:- 1) G.O (Rt) No. 456/2022-AGRI dated 26.05.2022.

2) Order No ADFW/4586/2023-TP2 dated 24.06.2023.

As per the reference 1st cited above administrative sanction has been accorded for the implementation of the scheme “Modernisation of Departmental laboratories” during 2022-2023 for an amount of Rs.400.00 Lakhs. As per reference 2nd cited, continuous administrative sanction is accorded for the implementation of the scheme “Modernisation of Departmental laboratories” during 2023-2024 for an amount of Rs.400.00 lakhs debiting expenditure to the Head of Account 2401 -01 -105 -86 Plan from current year's budget provision. Strengthening of State Agmark laboratories is a component of the scheme “Modernization of Departmental Laboratories” during the year 2023 -24 with a provision of Rs.20.00 Lakhs which includes Rs 0.81369 Lakhs to meet the Treasury Queue bills of 2022-23.

The amount will be utilized for the purchase of chemicals / glasswares, repair / purchase of equipments, creation of additional infrastructure facilities, payment of honorarium to lab assistants, conduct of trainings for farmers /officers and organizing exhibitions / Melas related to quality control and marketing.

Grading of agricultural produce and quality control / assurance of quality of processed and packed food materials is of utmost importance in the present scenario. Grading and standardization of agricultural products will result in getting premium price for the products which will in turn benefit the farmers. Consumers in turn will be assured of the quality of the products.

The detailed working instructions for each component are issued as follows.

1. Purchase of chemicals, equipments, strengthening of Laboratories and creation of infrastructural facilities in the SAGLs.

State Agmark Grading Laboratories are established in all 11 districts of Kerala. These labs require annual purchase of chemicals, glassware, repair / purchase of equipments etc. connected with the analysis of samples. Some laboratories need additional infrastructure and equipments. An amount of Rs.

7.80071 Lakhs is earmarked for purchase of chemicals / glasswares / equipments, repair of equipments and strengthening laboratories in the SAGLs during the current year.

2. Training to Officers and Farmers

Value addition and post-harvest management are considered as vital sectors in the changing economy. Agricultural marketing plays an important role in maximizing returns from production. The existing marketing system needs to be modernized through use of technology, improving skills, knowledge, attitude etc. The following areas have been identified for undertaking training to create awareness to field functionaries and to the farmers.

1. Information technology application in agricultural marketing
2. Food safety, quality certification and standardization.
3. Pesticide residue.
4. Marketing infrastructure.
5. Modern terminal markets and their operation management.
6. Market led extension
7. Importance of sanitary and phyto sanitary measures in quality control.
8. Grading, standardization and certification.
9. Popularization of APEDA schemes and standards of APEDA
10. Warehousing and storage
11. Decentralized grading of vegetables and fruits.
12. Promotion of safe to eat food products.

For imparting training, the officials from DMI, CTCRI, VFPCCK, KAU, Spices Board, FSSAI and stakeholders at the district level connected with marketing may be invited. The training may be organized through RATTC, FTC, KVK etc. Chemists of State Agmark Grading Labs of the districts will be the officer in charge for organizing trainings at district level. The Assistant

Training to Farmers

Sl. No.	Item	Rate	Amount
1	Training materials	Rs. 25.00	625.00
2	Honorarium for experts	Rs.750 per hour limited to Rs.3000/- per day	3000.00
3	Food and refreshment	Rs.200/- per person	5000.00
4	Travelling expenses to farmers	Rs.150/- per person	3750.00
5	Other contingent expenses		1625.00
	Total		14000.00

3. Organizing of exhibitions and melas

At least one Exhibition/ mela should be organized in each district at district level at the rate of Rs.15000 per Exhibition/ mela. An amount of Rs.1.65 Lakhs is set apart for this purpose.

4. Honorarium to Lab Assistants

There is a provision for engaging Lab Assistant in State Agmark Grading Laboratories in Pathanamthitta, Kasaragod and Kannur. The persons engaged should assist the Chemist in the SAGL for carrying out the analytical works of these labs. As this is an ongoing scheme sanction has been given to engage one lab assistant on contract basis in the above laboratories through Employment Exchange. Eligible persons having B.Sc Chemistry qualification may be engaged by paying an honorarium of Rs.19710 /- per month in the SAGLs of Kasaragod, Pathanamthitta, and Kannur. The Principal Agricultural Officers of Kasaragod, Pathanamthitta, and Kannur districts should take necessary action to engage a lab assistant for carrying out the works in the above labs. An amount of Rs.7.0956 Lakhs is set apart for this purpose.

Physical and Financial Targets

The physical and financial targets for Strengthening of Agmark Labs /purchase of chemicals / equipments, creation of infrastructure facilities, conduct of trainings, exhibition, and payment of honorarium to lab assistants are shown in Annexure -1. Chemists of all Agmark Grading Laboratories are directed to bring minimum 10 packers/license holders in addition to the packers already involved in Agmark Certification Programme before

Directors of Agriculture (Marketing) in the districts should give all necessary support for coordinating the trainings at the District level. The Principal Agricultural Officers should give all necessary support for the successful conduct of the trainings. It should be ensured that the training programmes to be completed by December 2024. One Training programme each should be conducted for farmers and officials in the district. An amount of Rs.2.64 lakhs is set apart for the conduct of trainings in the districts.

1. Training to Officials - Not less than 25 Agricultural Officers /Agricultural Assistants of each district will be given training on topics mentioned above.
2. Training to Farmers - Not less than 25 farmers of each district will be given training on any of the topics mentioned above.

The packers involved in Agmark Certification programme should also be included wherever possible. The process of grading and analysis should be described through charts, pictures, pamphlets, power point presentations, videos etc. in order to purchase only Agmark products and help them to distinguish between adulterated products. The public should also be made aware of the adulterants being used in the agricultural produce is being marketed.

The financial assistance for conducting the trainings is given below.

Training to Officials

Sl. No.	Item	Rate	Amount
1	Training materials	Rs. 25.00	625.00
2	Honorarium for experts	Rs.750 per hour limited to Rs.3000/- per day	3000.00
3	Food and refreshment	Rs.200/- per person	5000.00
4	Other contingent expenses		1375.00
	Total		10000.00

31.03.2024.

Monitoring and Evaluation - The scheme will be monitored at the State level by the Additional Director of Agriculture (Marketing). At the district level, the SAGL Chemist in association with Assistant Director of Agriculture (Marketing) should be responsible for the proper and timely implementation of the scheme with overall supervision of the Principal Agricultural Officer.

The monthly progress report of the implementation of the schemes should be submitted to the Additional Director of Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture by 3rd of every month by the Principal Agricultural Officers in the prescribed proforma. In case of Agmark analysis details of samples analysed in each month has to be submitted to the Directorate of Agriculture in prescribed proforma.

Budget Outlay

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| 1. Purchase of chemicals, equipments, strengthening of SAGLs and creation of infrastructural facilities in the SAGLs | - Rs. 7.80071 lakhs |
| 2. Training to officials and farmers | - Rs.2.64 lakhs |
| 3. Organizing exhibitions or melas | - Rs.1.65 lakhs |
| 4. Honorarium to lab assistants | - Rs.7.0956 lakhs |
| 5. Fund required to meet treasury | -Rs 0.81369 Lakhs |

Queue bills of 2022-23

Total	- 20.00 lakhs
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The expenditure will be met from the current year's budget provision under the Head of Account 2401 -00 -105 -86 Plan

ANNEXURE- 1

Sl. No.	Districts	Purchase of chemicals etc.(Rs.in lakhs)	Training (Rs.in lakhs)	Exhibition/ Melas (Rs. In lakhs)	Honorarium (Rs.in lakhs)	Total (Rs.in lakhs)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	0.7092	0.24	0.15	-	1.0992
2	Kollam	0.7092	0.24	0.15	-	1.0992
3	Alappuzha	0.7092	0.24	0.15	-	1.0992
4	Pathanamthitta	0.7092	0.24	0.15	2.3652	3.4644
5	Kottayam	0.7092	0.24	0.15	-	1.0992
6	Ernakulam	0.7092	0.24	0.15	-	1.0992
7	Thrissur	0.7091	0.24	0.15	-	1.0991
8	Palakkad	0.7091	0.24	0.15	-	1.0991
9	Kozhikkode	0.7091	0.24	0.15	-	1.0991
10	Kannur	0.7091	0.24	0.15	2.3652	3.4643
11	Kasaragod	0.70911	0.24	0.15	2.3652	3.46431
	Total	7.80071	2.64	1.65	7.0956	19.18631

(Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty One only)

4/8/2023

Additional Director of Agriculture (Mktg.)
Directorate of Agriculture Development &
Farmers' Welfare, Vikas Bhavan
Thiruvananthapuram-695002

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ANJU K S IAS
DIRECTOR
Director of Agriculture

- Copy to: 1) All Additional Directors of Agriculture
2) Joint Directors Of Agriculture (HQ)
3) All Principal Agricultural Officers

- 4) Chemists of all State Agmark Grading Labs (through Principal Agricultural Officers)
- 5) TA to Director of Agriculture
- 6) Planning section for allotment of funds as given in annexure-1