



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Agriculture Department -Kerala Agricultural University- "Safe to Eat" project-
Modification of sample collection protocol for pesticide residue analysis – Sanctioned -
Orders issued

AGRICULTURE (FARMS) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.965/2023/AGRI Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 05-10-2023

Read 1 G.O.(Rt) No. 468/2023/AGRI, dated 17/05/2023.

2 Minutes of the review meeting of the 'Safe to Eat' Project under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, Agriculture Department on 01.09.2023 & 16.09.2023.

3 Letter No. KAUDOR/545/2023-RES A3 dated 27.09.2023 from the Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University.

ORDER

Government as per the G.O read as 1st paper above, issued administrative sanction for an amount of Rs. 1334/- Lakhs for the implementation of "Vegetable Development" scheme under the Head of account 2401-00-119-85 Plan, wherein Rs.20 Lakhs was earmarked for the component of "Pesticide residue analysis in vegetables".

(2)The Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University, as per the letter read as 3rd paper above, submitted a proposal based on the decisions of the review meeting held on 01.09.2023 & 16.09.2023 under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner, Agriculture Department. The proposal states that the Safe to Eat project is being implemented at the Pesticide Residue Research and Analysis Laboratory, CoA, Vellayani with the support of Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare was reviewed as it was observed that the project needs to assume a more proactive role on sensitizing the stakeholders on the issue of pesticide residues and in minimizing the use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables. It was also recommended for modifying the sampling procedure in a more scientific way as well as the reporting of the results so as ensure that the project meets its stated objectives.

(3) Government have examined the proposal and decisions of the review meeting in detail and are pleased to order modification of the sample collection protocol for pesticide residue analysis under the Safe to eat project,so as to achieve the stated objectives, as described below.

- I. Fruit and vegetable samples (surveillance samples) requiring pesticide analysis will be collected LSGD block wise from every district by Food Safety Officers of FSSAI following Systematic Random Sampling procedure.
- II. Samples will be taken from four blocks every month, as per prearranged schedule between FSSAI and PRRAL, so that entire number of 152 blocks in the state (152

nos.) shall be covered in three years.

- III. The samples will be collected on a predesignated day during second week of every month with required details as per the proforma prepared for the purpose. PRRAL will make necessary arrangements to receive and transport the samples from FSSAI officials to PRRAL, CoA, Vellayani.
- IV. The results upon analysis will hereafter be uploaded on the PRRAL website on the first working day of the succeeding month and presented as per the revised format (attached) for each sample. The same will also be communicated to FSSAI every month and will be uploaded in the PRD website once in every 3 months with a press note.
- V. The Professor and Head, PRRAL and the Commissioner, FSSAI, Kerala will further execute an MOU to the above effect, specifying the requirements, common commitments and mutually agreed action plans.
- VI. The residue data generated over three succeeding months will be analyzed statistically so as to generate information on the prevalence of pesticide residues on a geo-spatial basis and publicised in website and suitable scientific publications.

(4) Permission is also accorded to the Principal Investigator of the project to engage the services of a certified Food Analyst on daily/contract basis. The additional expenses, if any, in this regard on Government norms should be met from the project funds sanctioned.

(5) The Professor and Head, PRRAL should submit a detailed proposal to the Director of Agriculture for upgradation of the PRRAL in order to be accredited by FSSAI for analysis of fruits and vegetables.

(By order of the Governor)
DR B ASHOK I A S
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY & APC

To:

The Director, Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, Thiruvananthapuram,
The Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

The Registrar, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.

The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

The Accountant General (A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

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Section Officer