

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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CIRCULAR

Sub:- Kerala Budget - Annual Plan 2024-25 - Scheme on Modernisation of Departmental Laboratories- Strengthening of Fertilizer and Pesticide Quality Control Laboratories- Working Instructions Issued -reg

Ref:- (1) G.O(Rt) No.456/2022/AGRI dated 26-05-2022
(2) ADFW/4620/2024-TP2 Dated 28-04-2024

In the Kerala Budget Vol II Part 2 - Annual Plan 2024-25, an out lay of ₹ 400.00 Lakh is provided for the scheme "Modernisation of Departmental Laboratories" under Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-34 (OC).

Vide reference (1), Government of Kerala accorded Administrative Sanction for the implementation of the scheme, "Modernisation of Departmental Laboratories" for an amount of ₹400.00 Lakh during the year 2022-23.

Vide reference (2), Continuous Administrative Sanction has been accorded for the implementation of the scheme "Modernisation of Departmental Laboratories" for an amount of ₹400 Lakh during 2024-25 .

Out of this, an amount of ₹ 75 Lakh is set apart for strengthening of fertilizer and pesticide quality control laboratories viz; State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL), Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) and Bio fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) as follows.

Sl. No	Name of laboratory	Amount (₹ Lakh)
1	Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Parottukonam	35
2	Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality control Laboratory, Parottukonam and Pattambi	30
3	Strengthening of Bio fertilizer and Organic manure Quality Control Laboratory, Pattambi	10
	TOTAL	75

Quality assurance of fertilizers and pesticides assumes importance as these primary

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inputs in agriculture significantly affect crop production and productivity. Quality control of fertilizers and pesticides is therefore one of the major services offered to the farming community by the department. Quality Control of fertilizers and pesticides is also a mandatory requirement as per the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and The Insecticides Act, 1968 for assuring economic benefits to farmers and checking environmental pollution.

There are two Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) established under the department, at Parottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram and Pattambi, Palakkad. The analysing capacity of each FQCL is 2500 samples annually. The State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL) established at Parottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram has an annual analysing capacity of 2500 pesticide samples.

Scientific analysis of statutory samples of fertilizers and pesticides drawn by Fertilizer / Insecticide Inspectors are carried out in these laboratories on a regular basis. This activity provides the department an array of regulatory measures for assuring quality in production, distribution, sale and consumption of fertilizers and pesticides in the state. With the given thrust in Organic farming, there is also an influx of different brands of organic products in the market and ensuring quality of such organic products has become a major challenge. Bio-Fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL) has also been set up in the State at Pattambi in Palakkad district.

It is important to provide adequate support to the laboratories for ensuring the state of the art and updated facilities in respect of equipment, glassware, scientific/standard operating procedures on analysis, infrastructure and other miscellaneous expenditure for the strengthening of laboratories etc on a continuing basis.

Under the scheme an amount of ₹ 75.00 Lakh is sanctioned for the strengthening of laboratories for quality analysis of major inputs like fertilizers including organic, inorganic and bio fertilizer, pesticides and seeds for quality control of the inputs.

1. Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL)

The major activity of the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL) is to analyze the quality of pesticide samples drawn by the insecticide inspectors as part of the department scheme on quality control. The SPTL also analyses the quality of plant protection chemicals purchased if any, for departmental purposes. Samples received from private institutions/ individuals for quality check are also analyzed by charging fee as fixed by the Government. Analysis of samples of pesticides or chemicals seized /confiscated by insecticide inspector or other competent officer as part of enforcement of various statutory provisions of The Insecticides Act, 1968 is also carried out in this laboratory. Analysis of pesticide samples in the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory is done following

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instrumental as well as volumetric methods as per BIS specifications and the technical guidelines issued periodically by the Central Insecticide Laboratory, Faridabad.

The State Pesticide Testing Laboratory requires funds for the purchase of chemicals, certified reference materials, glassware, gas fuel etc, maintenance/repair and purchase of equipment, updating operating procedures as per BIS standards, upgradation of infrastructure facilities, repair and maintenance, disposal of left over pesticide sample portion after analysis, waste water treatment etc.

Waste materials, including solvents and other organic matter, should be collected and stored in suitable container, and sent for appropriate, safe disposal or treatment. Liquid waste containing chlorinated solvents must be kept segregated, to avoid potential exothermic reactions and allow separate disposal or incineration. The wastewater from laboratory sinks should pass through an appropriate water treatment system which may include bioremediation to avoid contamination and environment pollution due to toxic compounds.

Bioremediation involves complete removal of pesticides by naturally occurring or genetically modified microorganisms and plants. The process is more constructive and eco-friendlier in contrast with traditional, physical, and chemical methods.

An amount of ₹ 35 Lakh is set apart during the current year budget for meeting the expenses for carrying out the above routine activities of the laboratory and for the infrastructure development with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components within the total provision in a need based manner. The equipment and machinery in the laboratory shall not be kept idle and necessary actions shall be taken for running the laboratory in full-fledged condition.

2. Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories

(i) Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory(FQCL), Parottukonam

(ii) Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory, Pattambi

The Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories conduct quality analysis of fertilizer samples received through fertilizer inspector, as part of the quality control programme of the department. Samples received from private institutions/ individuals for quality check are also analyzed by charging fee as fixed by the Government. Referee Samples from other States and Check Samples from Government of India are also analysed in these laboratories. Further, Government of India, have advised to carry out analysis of samples received directly from farmers not exceeding 10% of the total capacity of the laboratories.

Samples from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts are analysed at FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram and those from Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargode are analysed at FQCL, Pattambi. Fertilizer analysis is carried out as per the specifications

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contained in the Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985, by adopting both volumetric and instrumental methods.

The Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories require funds for the basic activities such as purchase of chemicals and glassware, comprehensive / periodic maintenance of old equipment, purchase of modern equipment, upgradation of infrastructure facilities including repair and maintenance etc. An amount of ₹15 Lakh is set apart for FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram and ₹15 Lakh is set apart for FQCL, Palakkad for the above activities, with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components, within the total provision in a need based manner.

3. Strengthening of Bio-fertilizer & Organic manure Quality Control Laboratory, Pattambi

BOQCL require funds for the basic activities such as purchase of chemicals and glassware, comprehensive/ periodic maintenance of old equipment, purchase of modern equipment, upgradation of infrastructure facilities including repair and maintenance etc.

During the financial year, an amount of ₹10 Lakh is earmarked for the above activities so as to make the Bio-fertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory fully functional, with flexibility for interchanging the financial provision of different components, within the total provision, in a need based manner.

General Instructions

The Deputy Director of Agriculture in charge of the laboratories shall be responsible for the implementation of the scheme. The implementing officer shall prepare an implementation schedule to complete the entire programme including infrastructure/civil works in a predefined timeline. The expenditure on the implementation of the scheme shall be debited under the Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-34-OC- Plan.

All rules, formalities and procedures must be strictly followed for the implementation of the programme. Store Purchase Rules shall be strictly adhered for all kinds of purchases. Tender/e Tender and other stipulated formalities will be followed wherever necessary.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture in charge of the laboratories will submit the monthly progress reports in the prescribed proforma as per the standing instructions.

The Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor the progress of the scheme at the state level to avoid parking of funds and will ensure that the implementation is as per the existing procedures, rules and regulations.

The amount sanctioned for implementation of the scheme is inclusive of the amount set apart for the encashment of treasury Q bills, WAMS clearance bills of 2023-24 if any and funds proposed to be placed in e-LAMS.

sd/-
SEERAM SAMBASIVA RAO IAS
DIRECTOR
Director of Agriculture

- To
- 1) Deputy Director of Agriculture, SPTL, Thiruvananthapuram
 - 2) Deputy Director of Agriculture, FQCL, Parottukonam, Typm .
 - 3) Deputy Director of Agriculture, FQCL .Pattambi, Palakkad
 - 4) Deputy Director of Agriculture, BOQCL .Pattambi, Palakkad
 - 5) All Additional Director of Agriculture at HQ & SAE
 - 6) All Joint Director of Agriculture at HQ
 - 7) All Principal Agricultural Officer
 - 8) Senior Finance Officer
 - 9) Assistant Executive Engineer (Agri), Palakkad/Thiruvananthapuram
 - 10) Executive Engineer (Agri) Kozhikode/Alappuzha

W. S. S.
JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (P)
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