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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND FARMERS
WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

(Present: George Sebastian)

Sub:- Annual Plan 2024-25 – Scheme on Modernization of Departmental Laboratories – Continuous Administrative sanction accorded – orders issued - reg:

Read:- 1) G.O (Rt) No.456/2022/AGRI dated 26/05/2022
2) Order No. ADFW/4586/2023-TP2 dated 24/06/2023
3) Order No. ADFW/4586/2023-TP2 dated 28/02/2024
4) G.O.(Rt)No.289/2024/AGRI dated 21/03/2024
5) G.O.(Rt)No.376/2024/AGRI dated 22/04/2024
6) Annual Plan 2024-25

ORDER NO. ADFW/4620/2024-TP2 Dated.28-04-2024

Government of Kerala, vide order read 1st above accorded Administrative sanction for the implementation of the scheme, “Modernization of Department Laboratories” for an amount of Rs.400.00 lakh during the year 2022-23. Continuous Administrative Sanction was accorded for the scheme for an amount of Rs.400.00 lakh with subsequent revision vide references 2nd and 3rd mentioned above during 2023-24.

As per the Annual Plan 2024-25, an amount of Rs.400.00 lakh has been earmarked for the scheme “Modernization of Departmental Laboratories” under Head of account 2401-00-105-86 P. The details of continuing components under the scheme worth Rs.400.00 lakh proposed to be implemented during the current financial year are given below:

I. Strengthening of Laboratories

1. Strengthening of soil testing laboratories and NABL accreditation (Rs.90.00 lakh)

The activities of the Central Soil & Plant Health Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, 14 district soil testing laboratories and 9 mobile soil testing laboratories of the state for the analysis of major, secondary and micro nutrients and facilitate the timely issue of soil test results and soil health cards under the NMSA scheme will be strengthened. This includes purchase of modern equipment, replacement of old equipment, repair of equipment, purchase of glasswares and chemicals, AMC for laboratory equipment, purchase of filter paper, refilling of gas cylinders, enhancing infrastructural facilities of the laboratories etc.

Pooled purchase of equipment, chemicals and other essential inputs required for various labs as per approved action plan will be done by the Chief Soil Chemist,

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CSPHC, Parotukonam. Activities such as repair, AMC of equipments/ instruments/ machineries / other hardware etc in each lab will be taken care of by the Assistant Soil Chemists of the labs concerned. Purchases have to be effected abiding by the procedure, norms and rules applicable for Government purchases. Initial activities for providing NABL accreditation of soil labs will be supported.

An amount of Rs.90.00 lakh is proposed for the strengthening of these laboratories.

2. Strengthening of Bio Fertilizer Laboratory Parottukonam and Pattambi (Rs.20.00 lakh)

The State Biofertilizer Laboratory, Parottukonam was established during the year 2002-03 under the control of the Chief Soil Chemist, Central Soil and Plant Health Centre, Parottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram. The biofertilizers produced in the laboratory are Azospirillum and AMF- Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (VAM). During current year an amount of Rs.20.00 lakh is set apart for the strengthening of Bio fertilizer laboratories of Parottukonam and Pattambi. This amount will be utilized for various activities such as Purchase of equipments, Purchase of Vermiculite, Repair and maintenance of the Building, Purchase of Polythene cover for packing and miscellaneous expenses.

3. Strengthening of State Agmark Grading Laboratories (Rs.20.00 lakh)

An amount of Rs.20.00 lakh is earmarked for State Agmark Grading Laboratories for the purchase of chemicals/ glassware, repair/ purchase of equipment, creation of additional infrastructure facilities, payment of honorarium to lab assistants, conduct of training for farmers, officers and organizing exhibitions/Melas related to quality control and marketing.

4. Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratory Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha (Rs.20.00 lakh)

Two Seed Testing Laboratories are functioning in the state at Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha. An amount of Rs 20.00 lakh is earmarked for the strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratories during 2024-25.

5. Strengthening of Biotechnology and Model Floriculture Centre (BMFC), Kazhakootam (Rs.50.00 lakh)

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The Biotechnology and Model Floriculture Centre (BMFC), Kazhakootam is involved in the mass multiplication and distribution of plantlets of different varieties of banana, pepper, orchids, anthurium, foliage plants and other ornamental plants through tissue culture technique. The Centre is also engaged in standardizing protocols for other crops including medicinal plants and conducting training programmes. An amount of Rs.50.00 lakh is earmarked for the strengthening of BMFC. The amount will be used for interventions such as routine purchase of chemicals, equipments and lab utilities, repair and maintenance of equipments and operational expenses including hiring of manpower.

6. Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories at Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad (Rs.30.00 Lakh)

The Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories conduct quality analysis of fertilizer samples received from Fertilizer Inspectors, as part of enforcement of Quality Control by the Agriculture Department. Provision is also there for analysis of outside samples from public and other institutions. Referee samples from other States and Check samples from Government of India are also analyzed 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 Kasargod are analysed at FQCL Pattambi. An amount of Rs.30.00 lakh is set apart for Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories for activities such as purchase of chemicals and glasswares, comprehensive / periodic maintenance of old equipments, purchase of modern equipments, upgradation of infrastructure facilities including repair & maintenance etc.

7. Strengthening of State Bio Control Laboratory and Bio Fertilizer & Organic Manures Quality Control Laboratory at Pattambi (Rs.30.00 lakh)

The State Bio Control Laboratory (SBCL) established in the year 2000 is involved in the mass production of biocontrol agents such as *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Trichoderma viride*, *Trichocards*, *Beauveria*, *Verticillium*, Chitin enriched *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, etc in liquid and talc formulations. Recently the lab has started the mass production of biocontrol agents such as Entomo Pathogenic Nematodes (EPN), *Pochonia*, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) and liquid formulation of *Beauveria*.

To augment the production of bio-control agents, an amount of Rs.20.00 lakh is set apart for SBCL during 2024-25 for all routine activities like purchase of chemicals, equipments and lab utilities, repair and maintenance of equipments, etc.

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During the current financial year, an amount of Rs.10.00 lakh is earmarked for the Bio-fertilizer & Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory, Pattambi for activities like purchase of chemicals & glasswares and maintenance of equipments (AMC/CMC), infrastructure and allied works and miscellaneous expenses.

8. Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram. (Rs.35.00 lakh)

An amount of Rs.35.00 Lakh is earmarked for the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory for the routine activities like purchase of chemicals, certified reference materials, glassware, gas fuel etc, maintenance and purchase of equipment, updating of operating procedures as per BIS standards, upgradation of infrastructure facilities, continuation of NABL accreditation process, repair & maintenance, disposal of left over sample portion after analysis as per references 4th and 5th mentioned above, etc.

9. NABL Accreditation of Laboratories (Rs.25.00 lakh)

Laboratory accreditation is a procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition of technical competence for specific tests/ measurements, based on third party assessment and following international standards. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) is a Constituent Board of Quality Council of India. NABL has been established with the objective to provide Government, Industry Associations and Industry in general with a scheme for third-party assessment of the quality and technical competence of testing and calibration laboratories. An amount of Rs.25.00 lakh is earmarked for NABL accreditation activities.

II. Quality control Enforcement Wing (Rs.68.50 lakh)

The quality control enforcement wing ensures availability of quality agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in the State. Quality control by systematic sampling, analysis and proceeding action against non-standard items are the activities undertaken. An amount of Rs.68.50 lakh is earmarked for quality control enforcement as part of the scheme.

Operational expenses (Rs.11.50 lakh)

For carrying out various activities of the laboratories like collection of parent material, distribution of tissue culture plantlets, sampling of pesticides, fertilizers, organic manures, soil and other official activities etc., the officers of the Department and laboratories have to conduct tours for which expenses are involved by way of fuel

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charge, maintenance charges, traveling expenses etc. An amount of Rs.11.50 lakh is provided to meet the operational expenses related to the scheme, under the following sub heads.

Sub heads	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
04-TE 1-Tour TA	10.00
05-4 OE 1- Other items	1.00
45-POL	0.50
Total	11.50

Financial Outlay

During the financial year 2024-25, a budget provision of Rs.400.00 lakh is allocated under head of account 2401-00-105-86 (Plan) for implementation of the scheme 'Modernization of Departmental Laboratories. Continuing components under the scheme worth Rs.400.00 lakh are as furnished in the abstract below:

Sl No	Component	Amount (Rs in lakh)
I	Strengthening of Laboratories and NABL Accreditation	
1	Strengthening of Soil Testing Laboratories	90.00
2	Strengthening of Bio Fertilizer Laboratory Parottukonam and Pattambi	20.00
3	Strengthening of State Agmark Grading Laboratories	20.00
4	Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratory Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha	20.00
5	Strengthening of Biotechnology and Model Floriculture Center (BMFC), Kazhakootam	50.00
6	Strengthening of Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories at Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad	30.00
7	Strengthening of State Biocontrol Laboratory, Mannuthy, and Bio Fertilizer and Organic Manures Quality Control Laboratory at Pattambi	30.00
8	Strengthening of State Pesticide Testing	35.00

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Laboratory		
9	NABL Accreditation of Labs	25.00
II	Quality Control Enforcement Wing	68.50
	Operational expenses	11.50
	TOTAL	400.00

(Rupees Four Crore only)

In the circumstances mentioned above, continuous administrative sanction is hereby accorded for the implementation of the scheme 'Modernization of Departmental Laboratories during 2024-25, for an amount of Rs.400.00 lakh (Rupees Four crore only) as per the above statement, debiting expenditure to head of account 2401-01-105-86 (Plan) from current years' budget provision, from the following sub heads.

Sub heads	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
34 OC	388.50
04-TE 1-Tour TA	10.00
05-4 OE 1- Other items	1.00
45-POL	0.50
Total	11.50

This amount is inclusive of the amounts 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

The scheme shall be implemented abiding by the terms and conditions stipulated in the Government Orders read above.

Timely implementation of the various programs under the scheme has to be ensured with a definite action plan and calendar in advance and this should reflect in the monthly booking of expenditure from the 1st quarter onwards.

Monthly progress report should be submitted invariably containing component wise physical and financial targets and achievements, number of beneficiaries (wherever applicable), and the stage of implementation of each component.

GEORGE SEBASTIAN
Director of Agriculture i/c

To

- 1) TA/TD/TF/TG/TM/TQ/VC sections of the directorate for issue of detailed working instructions

Deputy Director of Agriculture (Fig)
Directorate of Agriculture
Thiruvananthapuram

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Copy to

1. TA to Director of Agriculture
2. CA to All Additional Directors of Agriculture of the HQ
3. State Agricultural Engineer, Senior Finance Officer for information
4. IT section of the directorate for posting on the website

