

**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 - Enforcement and Compliance of Statutory Regulations on Agricultural Inputs - Working Instructions - Issued-reg

Ref:- 1) G.O(Rt)No.456/2022/Agri dated 26/05/2022

2) Order No.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 2401-00-105-86-00-34-03- (OC )Plan.

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 2022-23.

The Central Government enacted various Acts, Rules and issued orders to regulate the production, movement, distribution and quality of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. The Seed Act, 1966, The Seed Rules, 1968 and the Seed (Control) Order 1983 framed by the Central Government are the legal instruments to regulate the quality of seed of any kind or variety to be sold for the purpose of use in agriculture.

The Fertilizer (Control) Order 1985 and the Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order 1973 framed under Section 10 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 determine the regulatory mechanism on the import, manufacture, movement, distribution/sale and quality control of fertilizers in the country.

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 ₹ 68.5 Lakh has been earmarked for implementation of the scheme Enforcement and Compliance of Statutory Regulations on Agricultural Inputs during 2024-25.

The Insecticides Act,1968 and the Insecticides Rules,1971 form the legal framework for the manufacture, distribution, sale and use of insecticides. Insecticide means any substance specified in The Schedule of The Insecticides Act,1968 or such other substances, which include fungicides, weedicides and plant growth regulators as the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, includes in The Schedule from time to time or any preparation containing anyone or more of such substances.

The compliance is the full implementation of legal requirements. Enforcement is the set of actions that competent authorities take to achieve compliance by the regulated community with regulatory requirements and/or to halt situations that may endanger public health or the environment. The monitoring of the quality of registered agricultural inputs on the market is also a key role of regulation.

An enforcement wing has been constituted in the department in a structural mode , which consists of State Enforcement Cell at headquarters and District Enforcement Cell at the district level and has the primary responsibility to oversee enforcement of the above mentioned statutory regulations.

**1. Enforcement and compliance of statutory regulations**

The Fertilizer / Insecticide / Seed Inspector is an officer who is authorized to enforce the

provisions of the law, including taking samples from the manufacturers/market and taking prosecution actions in cases of non-compliance. The inspector has to conduct routine depot inspections of the premises of manufacturers, wholesale distributors and retail dealers. The insecticide inspector shall inspect not less than three times in a year, all establishments selling insecticides within the area of jurisdiction. The jurisdictional area of the 4 Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) is given below.

1. ADA(QC), Thiruvananthapuram  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam
2. ADA (QC), Alappuzha  
Alappuzha, Idukki, and Ernakulam
3. ADA (QC) Thrissur  
Thrissur, Palakkad and Malappuram
4. ADA (QC) Kozhikode,  
Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod

The inspector shall conduct reactive inspections, as a follow up to findings of concern obtained during routine inspections, receipt of allegations of unregistered and banned products being offered for sale and storage and identification of anomalies in manufacture, stock, sale or use of insecticides.

### 1.1. Pest Control Operations

The Insecticide Inspector being the authorised officer of the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare is responsible for enforcing provisions in regards to pest control operations under The Insecticides Act, 1968 and The Insecticides Rules, 1971. The role of the insecticide inspector is to ensure that pest control activities are properly carried out by Pest Control Operators (PCO) and do not adversely affect consumers, the general public, or the environment as per Circular No. ADFW/5963/2023-TQ1 "Guidelines on Enforcement of Statutory Regulations on Pest Control Operations" dated 21.10.2023 of the Director of Agriculture.

Insecticide Inspectors shall conduct routine inspection of the premises of the PCO under their jurisdiction not less than three times a year. The Assistant Director of Agriculture shall co ordinate the activities and submit a report to district authorities in the prescribed proforma. The Principal Agricultural Officer shall submit the consolidated report to the State Licensing Authority during April, August and December every year.

Sl.No	No.of PCOs in the District	No.of inspections conducted	Non compliance if any	Action Taken

### 1.2 Drawal of Enforcement Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control (₹ 20.00 Lakh)

Quality Control (QC) involves taking statistically significant test samples for quality analysis to assess whether the product conforms to specifications. The inspectors shall draw statutory samples as part of routine sampling which is included in the annual plan program. Reactive sampling shall be done as part of reactive inspections mentioned above.

#### 1.2.1 Drawal of Fertilizer Samples

The Fertilizer Inspector is the main functionary of Fertilizer Control Order enforcement machinery. It is primarily, the duty of the fertilizer inspector to ensure that the farmers get the right quality of fertilizers at the right place on the right price and time which is the basic idea behind the promulgation of Fertilizer Control Order 1985.

There are two Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories (FQCL) in the state situated at Parottukonam, Thiruvananthapuram and Pattambi, Palakkad with an annual analyzing capacity of 2500 samples in each laboratory. Samples drawn from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Idukki, and Ernakulam districts shall be sent to FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram and samples from Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod to FQCL Palakkad.

Fertilizer Inspectors shall draw enforcement samples from all the fertilizer depots within their jurisdiction. It shall be observed that 70 % of the samples drawn shall be of physical mixtures of fertilizers. If a qualified inspector is not present as per The Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985, samples shall be drawn by an officer having such qualification and respective area of jurisdiction as notified by the State Government.

The designated officers such as the Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) shall primarily focus on manufacturing/wholesale units. Micronutrient fertilizer samples are also to be drawn by ADA(QC) for quality analysis. Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) shall draw organic manure and biofertilizer samples from the manufacturing/distribution, and wholesale units and send the samples to the Biofertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory (BOQCL), Pattambi, Palakkad for analysis. All organic manure and biofertiliser samples should be sent to Biofertiliser and Organic manure Quality Control Laboratory, Pattambi unless and otherwise mentioned. The implementing officers of department schemes, LSGD projects or any special programmes should send the biofertiliser and organic manure samples to BOQCL, Pattambi.

It was found that more than 60% of samples of organic manures and biofertilizers analysed by laboratories under National Centre for Organic and Natural Farming (NCONF) were substandard. In order to ensure the quality standards of biofertilizers and organic manure, sampling of all manufacturing units shall be conducted on a mission mode basis and as a check, send at least 10% of samples of biofertilizers and organic manure to NCONF for quality analysis and the quarterly progress report of the same shall be submitted in the proforma given below.

Sl.No	Name & Address of manufacturer/distributor/dealer	Code No. & date of sampling	Fertiliser name & grade	Std/Non Std	Date of receipt of report
1	ADA(QC), Thiruvananthapuram				
2	ADA (QC) Alappuzha				
3	ADA(QC), Thrissur				
4	ADA(QC), Kozhikkode				

The fertiliser sample drawn by inspector shall be sent to the laboratory within 3 days of drawal of sample. The analysis report shall be communicated, within 7 days from the date of receipt of analysis report, to the manufacturer/distributor/ dealer from whom the sample has been drawn. All fertilizer inspectors shall record the batch number and quantity of the lot from which samples are drawn and shall invariably put down the details in the Preliminary Report and submit to Director of Agriculture within 5 days, if sample is found non standard.

The fertilizer inspector shall submit reports to the State Registering Authority and take appropriate administrative and legal action as per the provisions of the Act/Order.

**During the transfer of officers from one station to another, records of all communication in case of the launch of prosecution against offenders shall be kept with the inspector who has drawn the sample and shall not leave any record in the previous place of posting.**

Department of Fertilizer, GoI has made it mandatory to submit the Quality Certificate (B2 Certificate) for releasing fertilizer subsidies on central allocation to the distributing firms. B2 certificate is also required to be uploaded to the Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) website, on a regular basis. As such, quality inspection, sampling and sample analysis have to be performed for each batch/lot of fertilizer arriving in every district in the State. The Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC) in charge of the district shall be responsible for performing this activity and the number of samples under this program shall be over and above the target allotted.

Apart from the statutory samples as above, Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories have the mandate to analyze fertilizer samples brought directly by farmers/firms also. However, the results of such tests shall not form the basis to initiate any legal action.

### **1.2.1(a) New Regime for Fertilizer Sampling**

Fertilizer Control Amendment Order, 2023 issued as per SO.623(E) dated 8/2/2023 has notified new regime for analysis of fertilizer samples from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Under this new system, the fertilizer inspector shall draw three samples and send the first sample to the state notified laboratory and deposit the remaining two parts with the authority designated by the state, who is an officer not below the rank of Joint Director for the custody of the samples.

As per Gazette Notification Vol XII, No. 25 dated 20-06-2023 the Principal Agricultural Officers, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Kannur, Wayanad, Malappuram, Palakkad and Kasargode are appointed as authorised officers and shall act as the custodian of fertilizer samples.

The manufacturer or dealer has an option to apply, within 7 days from the date of drawing of samples for sending one of the two samples with the state authorised officer for the simultaneous analysis at any of the authorised laboratory of the National Test House (NTH). The Fertilizer Inspector (FI) shall provide mail ID or other necessary details of the Principal Agricultural Officer, being the Designated Officer, to the manufacturer/dealer for submitting the request for analysis of the 2nd sample at NTH.

In case of 100 % water soluble mixture or mixture of fertilizer or micronutrient mixture or NPK mixture with micronutrient, the specification of all the parameters shall be provided to the NTH/ Referee laboratory.

The manufacturer also has a joint liability along with the dealer. The Inspector shall ensure that the manufacturer is also informed in writing that the sample of the material manufactured by his company, has been drawn from the premises of the dealer along with the address of the dealer, product name, batch no. etc. The Inspectors shall also provide details of fees to be deposited by the dealer/manufacturer for making a request for analysis at NTH.

Sl.No	No. of test parameters	Test Fee (Rs)	Total Fee (Rs) including GST @ 18%

1	1 to 3	2000	2360
2	4 to 6	4000	4720
3	7 or more parameters	7000	8260

The Designated Officer shall send the sample along with Test Fee to

**NTH Centralized Sample Collection Cell at the following address:**

Director General - Camp Office, Centralized Fertilizer Sample Collection Cell, National Test House (N.R.), Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad - 201 002 (Uttar Pradesh). E-mail id: fertilizer@nth.gov.in

**Demand draft should be in favour of**

Director General, National Test House, "Kolkata" Payable at "Kolkata" (Provide billing address & GSTN No. for generation of Tax Invoice)

**or**

Bharatkosh: Online payment procedure attached/available at [www.nth.gov.in](http://www.nth.gov.in)

(Mention of GSTN No. in Remarks box is mandatory for generation of Tax Invoice)

### **1.2.1(b) Referee Analysis**

**i)** In case there is variation in two reports, then such samples shall invariably be sent for a referee analysis at Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC&TI), Faridabad.

**ii)** In cases where the company or dealer has not applied for the second analysis due to some valid reason, then the company or dealer may make an appeal to the Director of Agriculture who is the Appellate Authority and the Appellate Authority shall decide on the grounds of the facts whether the matter qualifies to be considered for third analysis.

### **1.2.2 Drawal of Enforcement Samples of Pesticides**

The annual analysing capacity of the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram is 2500 samples. The insecticide inspector has to draw enforcement samples in such manner that all the pesticide depots within the area of jurisdiction are adequately covered. If a qualified inspector is not present as per the Insecticides Act, 1968 samples shall be drawn by an officer having such qualification and respective area of jurisdiction as notified by the State Government.

Samples of pesticides may be drawn based on the past performance of the manufacturer/formulator. Target of pesticide samples to be drawn by the insecticide inspector may be decided on the basis of the failure rate of pesticide samples drawn from the firms in the past and with a view to cover all pesticides and manufacturing units. Greater focus may be given on sampling of products reported to be less effective or ineffective by the farmers.

Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC) shall primarily focus on manufacturing and distribution/wholesale units. They are also required to draw samples of bio-control agents and send them to Regional Centre of Organic Farming (RCOF) stations for quality analysis. Approximately 10% of biopesticide samples analysed each year at NIPHM are found to be adulterated with chemical pesticides at concentrations greater than 0.01%. Hence the Insecticide Inspectors shall focus on drawing samples of biopesticides that are not registered with CIB&RC have no label claim on the pesticide active ingredient/ under suspicion and send them for analysis at NIPHM.

The insecticide inspector is not supposed to retain the drawn sample and has to be dispatched to the insecticide analyst on the same day or following day. The analysis report shall be communicated to the manufacturer/distributor/dealer as soon as test report is received from the insecticide analyst with out any delay.

### 1.2.2 (a) Insecticide Samples for testing label claim

The pesticide label is the information approved by the CIB&RC to comply with all instructions and use directions provided on the pesticide container/leaflet for safe and judicious use of the product. It also includes information about active ingredient(s), targeted pests, and the targeted crop(s).

Pesticide samples for testing of packaging, labeling and leaflet parameters are required to be drawn by State Department of Agriculture functionaries on a regular basis. A copy of each label, leaflet, and certificate of registration are required to be sent with the samples of pesticides drawn under Rule 5(C) of Insecticides Rules 1971 while forwarding the sample to Central Insecticides Laboratory, Faridabad. The target is given below.

Sl.No	District	Physical Target
1	ADA(QC),Thiruvananthapuram	1
2	ADA (QC) Alappuzha	1
3	ADA(QC),Thrissur	1
4	ADA(QC),Kozhikkode	1

### 1.2.2(b) Drawal of pesticides samples to determine efficacy and phytotoxicity

Bio assay Division of Central Insecticides Laboratory (CIL) is established under rule 5(d) of Insecticides Rules, 1971 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to study the bio-efficacy of pesticides against target pest species including quality control of bio-pesticides. The bio-efficacy of pesticides is evaluated in terms of pest mortality/reduction in pest population due to the application of pesticides.

Pesticide sample for testing efficacy and phytotoxicity are required to be drawn by State Department of Agriculture functionaries on regular basis. The pesticide samples have to be sent to the Divisional Head, Bioassay Division, Central Insecticides Laboratory(CIL) , Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine, and Storage, NH IV, Faridabad, Haryana Pin - 121001.

The targets are given below.

Sl.No	Name of the Inspector	Particulars	Physical Target
1	ADA (QC) Thiruvananthapuram	Weedicide	1
		Household Pesticide	1
2	ADA (QC) Alappuzha	Bio pesticide samples	3
3	ADA (QC) Thrissur	Insecticide samples	2
4	ADA (QC) Kozhikkode	Fungicide samples	2

The following guidelines shall be followed while drawing samples for the above purpose.

i. The sample quantity should not be less than 250mg/ml, except in case of Zinc phosphide, where the minimum quantity should not be less than 100 grams. Expired samples or pesticides which are nearing expiry should not be sent for analysis. The sample should have at least 6 months validity at the time of drawal of samples.

ii. The minimum quantity of packaging size should be submitted in case of low volume introduced pesticides. The samples should be sent in original containers along with labels

and leaflets in registered post.

iii. Half of the required number of samples should be sent before commencement of Kharif season and remaining half before commencement of Rabi season for the financial year. While sending sample, complete postal address of insecticide inspector, office pin code, telephone and email has to be forwarded.

### 1.2.3 Drawal of Seed Samples

The annual analyzing capacity of the State Seed Testing Laboratory, Alappuzha and the Seed Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram is 3000 and 1000 samples respectively. The Block level Assistant Directors of Agriculture are designated as Seed Inspectors and they shall draw samples of seeds meant for sale, export and seeds imported, and send them to the seed testing laboratory to ensure whether it conform to minimum seed certification standards as per The Seeds Act, 1966 , The Seeds Rules, 1968 and The Seeds (Control) Order, 1983. The seeds produced under the Registered Seed Growers Programme (RSGP) are also to be drawn and sent for testing by Assistant Directors of Agriculture for grant of certificates and certification tags.

### 1.2.4 Sampling schedule and frequency of collection of samples

The average number of samples that can be efficiently managed in testing laboratories is 250 per month and the sample receipt and workflow in the laboratory need to be managed accordingly. Hence the schedule for sampling should be strictly followed. The total number and type of quality control samples collected will depend on the annual analysing capacity of the fertiliser/organic manure/biofertiliser/ pesticide quality testing laboratory. Sampling shall occur more frequently during major cropping season, requirement of fertilisers and the incidence of pests or disease.

The plan of timing of sampling is designed for efficient sample management in the testing laboratory. The inspector shall ensure that sampling is being conducted in the jurisdictional area of inspectors in a particular year based on cropping season, incidence of pests and diseases etc to reach out to all manufacturers/ dealers. The schedule is subject to change but the Principal Agricultural Officers shall confirm that the annual targets have been achieved.

**Pesticide and Fertiliser Sampling Schedule**

District	Month	Pesticides	Fertilisers
Thiruvananthapuram	July	20	40
	August	20	35
	September	30	35
	October	20	40
	November	20	30
	December	50	40
	January	0	20
	<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>
Kollam	July	20	40
	August	20	35
	September	20	30
	October	20	30
	November	20	30
	December	20	30
	January	0	45

	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>240</b>
Pathanamthitta	July	20	35
	August	30	30
	September	0	30
	October	0	20
	November	0	20
	December	20	20
	January	0	25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>180</b>
Alappuzha	July	30	35
	August	30	40
	September	20	35
	October	20	40
	November	30	45
	December	20	40
	January	20	40
	February	0	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>290</b>
Kottayam	July	20	35
	August	30	40
	September	20	40
	October	20	40
	November	20	45
	December	20	40
	January	30	40
	February	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>290</b>	
Idukki	July	20	40
	August	30	40
	September	30	40
	October	30	40
	November	30	40
	December	20	40
	January	20	40
	February	0	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>370</b>	
Ernakulam	July	20	35
	August	20	40
	September	30	40
	October	30	40
	November	20	40
	December	20	40
	January	35	40
	February	0	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>320</b>
Thrissur	July	30	40
	August	0	40
	September	20	40
	October	30	45
	November	30	45
	December	20	45
	January	30	50



	February	0	55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>360</b>
Palakkad	July	20	40
	August	20	40
	September	20	40
	October	20	55
	November	20	50
	December	20	50
	January	20	50
	February	25	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>370</b>
Malappuram	July	20	40
	August	20	40
	September	20	40
	October	20	40
	November	20	50
	December	20	50
	January	30	50
	February	15	60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>370</b>
Kozhikode	July	20	40
	August	0	40
	September	20	40
	October	20	40
	November	20	40
	December	20	50
	January	30	40
	February	20	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>370</b>
Wayanad	July	0	35
	August	20	30
	September	10	30
	October	10	20
	November	10	20
	December	15	20
	January	0	25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>180</b>
	Kannur	July	20
August		0	30
September		10	30
October		10	20
November		10	20
December		10	20
January		30	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>180</b>
Kasargod		July	0
	August	10	20
	September	0	20
	October	10	20
	November	10	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1860</b>	<b>3860</b>
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### 1.2.5 Priority testing of samples in fertiliser and pesticide quality control lab

In certain cases, the samples may be required to be tested on priority over others because of urgency in cases like diversion of urea for non agricultural purposes, seizure / confiscation of stock, or any other special programme implemented by Government government, LSGs etc. The inspector shall request the head of the lab and the reason for priority testing must invariably be mentioned in the written request. The date by which the test results are required must also be mentioned by the inspector in such cases. Interim progress reporting of such testing should be done by the head of the lab to the directorate as and when such samples are received.

### 1.2.6 Communication of Test Result

#### Insecticides Samples

The insecticide inspector, on receipt of the report of the insecticide analyst, shall deliver forthwith one copy of the report to the person from whom the sample was taken, irrespective of the quality, and shall retain the other copy for use in any prosecution in respect of the sample.

#### Fertilizer Samples

The test result shall be communicated to the person from whom the sample has been drawn within 15 days of receipt of analysis report. If test result is found non standard the result should be communicated immediately and administrative and legal action should be initiated against the offender.

### Enforcement samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control District-wise Physical and Financial target

District	Fin. Target (Rs Lakh)	Physical Target							
		Fertilizers	Micronutrient	Organic Manures	Bio fertilizer	Pesticides	Bio control agents	Seeds	
								Paddy Seeds	Veg. Seeds
Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	240				160		20	5
Thiruvananthapuram ADA (QC)	2.0	260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kollam	0.7	240				120		20	5
Pathanamthitta	0.6	180				70		20	5
Alappuzha	1.0	290				170		50	5
Alappuzha ADA (QC)	2.0	260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kottayam	1.0	290				160		20	5
Idukki	0.8	370				180		20	5
Ernakulam	1.0	320				175		50	5

Thrissur	1.0	360				160		50	5
ADA (QC)	2.0	260	25	15	15	160	15		
Thrissur									
Palakkad	1.0	370				165		250	5
Malappuram	1.0	370				165		20	5
Kozhikode	1.0	370				150		20	5
ADA (QC)	2.0	260	25	15	15	160	15		
Kozhikode									
Wayanad	0.4	180				65		20	5
Kannur	1.0	180				90		20	5
Kasargod	0.5	100				30		20	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2500</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>70</b>

The target allotted to Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC) should allocate the target in proportion and should have appropriate relationship with the number of manufacturer/distributor/dealer in the districts under his/her jurisdiction in particular.

The monthly progress report in the following proforma should be submitted before 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**Fertiliser and Insecticide Sampling**  
**Monthly Progress Report Month ..... Year.....**

Name of inspector	District	Total No. of Manufacturers	Total No. of Distributors	Total No. of Dealers	Target allocated to the district	No. of samples drawn	Standard/Non standard
ADA(QC), .....							

**Principal Agricultural Officer,**

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The quality analysis of samples shall be collaborated with the ensuing cropping seasons. Hence 70% of the physical target should be completed during the period from April to October so as to commensurate with Virippu and Mundakan seasons and 30% during the Puncha season every year. The inspectors need not wait for allotment of targets and shall follow standing instructions.

Principal Agricultural Officers should ensure, that the targets given as above are

achieved in full and in time. The target given for seed sample analysis does not include Registered Seed Growers Programme. The monthly progress report on the implementation of the programme on drawal of samples for quality control should be submitted to the Director of Agriculture by 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

An amount of ₹ 20.00 Lakh is set apart for drawal of samples and related expenses.

### **1.3. Drawal of surveillance samples of pesticides under the category of bioproducts (₹ 8.00 Lakh).**

The Indian crop protection market in India is largely dominated by insecticides with various kinds of chemical, biological and other categories of bio products which include herbal products. Some of these bio products are mixed with chemical pesticides and many of them are sold without registration of Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). Hence, surveillance on quality of bioproducts like organic protectants, biopesticides and biostimulants available in the market is cardinal in subsequent reactive sampling and enforcement of regulations. Such samples are taken not for enforcement purposes, but the results of analysis could provide useful information for subsequent corrective actions to be taken.

Pesticide Management Division of National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) is a notified laboratory and designated as Central Insecticide Laboratory for the analysis of bio-pesticides under Section 16 of The Insecticides Act, 1968. The Assistant Directors of Agriculture (QC) shall be primarily responsible for the sampling.

Other insecticide inspectors can also draw samples of herbal / bio-products / organic pesticides / bio-pesticides which are suspected to contain chemical pesticides as per the provisions of The Insecticide Act, 1968 and send them to NIPHM for analysis after obtaining sanction from the Deputy Director of Agriculture (E&T).

The inspector shall purchase a single non-enforcement sample of the product under suspicion from dealers only after proper documentation of purchase, including cash bill, formulation, active ingredient and its percentage, name of the manufacturer, batch number, date of manufacture and expiry since the results of analysis are not meant for enforcement purposes.

#### **Surveillance on pesticides under the category of bioproducts Physical and Financial Targets.**

SL.No	District	Physical Target (No.)	Financial Target (Rs Lakh)
1	ADA(QC) Thiruvananthapuram (Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam)	15	2.0
2	ADA (QC) Alappuzha (Alappuzha, Idukki, and Ernakulam)	15	2.0
3	ADA (QC) Thrissur (Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram)	15	2.0
4	ADA (QC) Kozhikode, (Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod)	15	2.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>8.00</b>

(a) The analysis shall incur a cost in a range of ₹ 4000/- to Rs. 26000/- per sample depending on the sample to be analysed and methodology adopted for analysis. Hence on exhaustion of the financial target the physical target allotted will be limited to actual achievement.

(b) An amount of ₹ 8 Lakh is earmarked for this programme for need based allocation for meeting the cost of samples and related expenses.

## **2. Capacity Building Programmes**

### **2.1 Continuing Training & Mentorship programmes**

A continuous training programme helps the enforcement functionaries sharpen their knowledge and skills. The programme provides them with an accurate picture of their strengths and weaknesses and helps to mitigate weaknesses faced during enforcement and compliance activities.

Mentorship programmes play a pivotal role in creating a culture of continuous learning and development. Through mentorship, enforcement officers gain direct access to personalized guidance and support, allowing them to steer the complexities of their roles more effectively. The master trainers already trained during 2023-24 will act as mentors in their districts.

Training has to be provided to enforcement officers on various aspects of statutory regulations on agricultural inputs. Training also has to be provided to input dealers on regulations and quality standards of agricultural inputs and online licensing system.

Focused training and orientation programme for farmers on judicious use of pesticides and Integrated Pest Management strategies shall be conducted through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Awareness programmes on the need to follow instructions related to usage and application of pesticides as printed on labels and leaflets of pesticide containers shall be organised by agricultural extension functionaries along with various department trainings conducted under ATMA, VDP, BPKP etc.

### **2.2 Training to manufacturers, fertiliser and pesticide input agencies and pest control operators (₹ 2.10 Lakh)**

Agricultural input manufacturers and dealers are important agencies functioning in the farming sector. The department has the mandate to ensure the quality of inputs available in the market and safeguard the interests of the stakeholders. However, stringent enforcement actions initiated by the department, have caused certain misapprehensions among the input manufacturers / dealers and this is primarily due to ignorance of the statutory provisions in the respective Acts, Rules or Orders.

Trainings have to be provided to input manufacturers, agencies and pest control operators to empower them to comply with statutory regulations as laid down by acts/rules/ orders and online licensing system. An amount of ₹ 10000/- per training can be utilized for conducting one day training programme to input manufacturers and agencies. A total amount of ₹ 2.10 Lakh is set apart for the training.

#### **District wise Physical & Financial Target for Training to Input Agencies**

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District	No.of trainings	Financial target ( Rs.)
Thiruvananthapuram	1	10000
Kollam	1	10000
Pathanamthitta	1	10000
Alappuzha	2	20000
Kottayam	1	10000
Idukki	3	30000
Ernakulam	2	20000
Thrissur	2	20000
Palakkad	2	20000
Malappuram	2	20000
Kozhikode	1	10000
Wayanad	1	10000
Kannur	1	10000
Kasargod	1	10000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>210000</b>

### 2.3 Training to Master trainers (₹2.00 Lakh)

The enforcement officer has to keep himself abreast with all the provisions of acts and rules, amendments, orders and executive circulars issued from time to time in order to exercise powers and discharge duties diligently.

During 2023-24 two sets of 50 master trainers each were developed in the following subjects.

1. Enforcement of statutory regulations on agricultural inputs
2. Online licensing system through KSWIFT

The continuing training of the master trainers is a vital need for development. During the current year, it is envisaged to train the above 100 master trainers in the above subjects as a single batch for 2 days at SAMETI. The master trainers will also have the responsibility to develop an adequate number of trainers in the district. A total amount of ₹ 2.00 Lakh is set apart for conducting one day training programme.

### 2.3 Training to Enforcement Officers (₹ 2.20 Lakh)

The master trainers and such trainers will train staff in all Akshaya centres and other service providers in their respective districts on an online licensing system. The master trainers will impart training to all fertiliser and insecticide inspectors in the district on statutory regulations on agricultural inputs. An amount of ₹ 10000/- is earmarked for conducting one-day training for enforcement officers in the district by master trainers. The target for training is allotted based on the number of enforcement officers in the district and the trainings allotted to the district may be conjoined accordingly. An amount of ₹ 2.2 Lakh is set apart for training for enforcement officers.

#### District wise Physical & Financial Target for Training to Enforcement officers

		Financial target
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District	No.of trainings	( ₹ )
Thiruvananthapuram	2	20000
Kollam	1	10000
Pathanamthitta	1	10000
Alappuzha	2	20000
Kottayam	1	10000
Idukki	1	10000
Ernakulam	2	20000
Thrissur	2	20000
Palakkad	2	20000
Malappuram	2	20000
Kozhikode	2	20000
Wayanad	1	10000
Kannur	2	20000
Kasargod	1	10000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>220000</b>

#### 2.4 Training to fertiliser dealers in the state on quality control

During the last three years, various types of new fertilisers have been notified under FCO, 1985, and it has been proposed to organize fertilizer dealers training programme on quality control in selected districts. The Department of Agriculture shall guide the Lead Fertilizer Company to organise a one-day training programme with the active cooperation of other fertilizer companies operating in the area.

During 2024-25, Central Fertilizer Quality Control & Training Institute Faridabad(CFQC&TI) has selected FACT to organise a training session in Palakkad district during the month of December 2024. The District Level Agriculture Officers & Registering/Notified Authorities shall ensure participation of all fertiliser dealers of the district including cooperative societies and marketing federations in the programme.

The training programme shall be organized by identified company in the State. If the date and the proposed district are not convenient to the state government or Fertiliser Company, it may be changed under intimation to the Institute. On receiving confirmation well in advance, the institute will depute one officer from C.F.Q.C. & T.I./R.F.C.Ls. to deliver specialized lecture on fertiliser quality control in the training programme. The Principal Agricultural Officer, Palaakkad should coordinate the training programme as per the schedule.

#### 2.5 Inhouse Training to analysts in fertiliser quality testing laboratories ( ₹0.25 Lakh)

Quality testing is a vital process in quality control that ensures the products meet the specifications and standards of quality, safety, and performance. To achieve effective quality control, analysts need to be trained to participate in the process and use the appropriate methods and tools. As per Clause 29 AA of The Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985, every Fertilizer Analyst for analysis of fertiliser samples in the notified laboratories, shall undergo prescribed training in the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute, Faridabad. Every fertiliser analyst shall undergo training after every three years in the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute, Faridabad or any regional fertiliser quality control laboratory at

Mumbai, Kalyani or Chennai. The head of the laboratory shall take necessary action to ensure compliance.

As part of the continuing training programme it is envisaged to organise an inhouse training to all analysts in fertiliser quality testing laboratories. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratory, Palakkad shall organise training programme for all the fertiliser analysts in the state. The DDA shall assess the current situation, existing skills, their training needs and gaps and design and deliver the training programme after getting approval of proposal by Director of Agriculture. An amount of ₹25000/- is set apart for the training programme.

### **3. Storage/ Disposal of samples of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram (₹10.00 Lakh)**

#### **3.1 Storage area for analysed samples of chemical pesticides / Setting up an Hazardous Waste Landfill**

A separate secure area should be available in the laboratory for storage of analysed samples of chemical pesticides. A hazardous waste landfill is a treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF) and as such must be appropriately permitted by authorities concerned. The Deputy Director of Agriculture, State Pesticide Testing Laboratory is entrusted with the responsibility of identification of sites and setting up of the appropriate storage unit.

#### **3.2 Disposal of remnant portion of samples in SPTL**

(1) Pesticides need to be disposed of properly to prevent accidents and to protect the environment. The piling up of remnant pesticide sample portion after analysis in State Pesticide Testing Laboratory (SPTL) should be avoided. The annual analysing capacity of the laboratory is 2500 samples. The samples may be utilised properly in department farms / Plant Health Clinics / Karshika Karma Sena, Agro service Centres or Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) research stations based on the crops cultivated and quantity demanded. Therefore, the laboratory staff need to be trained in careful opening of sample packages and proper sealing/fastening of sample packets/bottles. The remnant samples should be stored active ingredient (AI) wise and an appropriate logistics plan worked out for safe transportation and delivery to target stations and subsequent inventory management and disposal of store before expiry period. The transfer of stock to Karshika Karma Sena/Agroservice Centre shall be done only based on the recommendation of the Agricultural Officer.

(2) A committee shall be formed with Joint Director of Agriculture (Plant Protection) as chairperson and Deputy Director of Agriculture, SPTL as convenor, along with ADAs (QC), representatives of KAU and departmental farms to work out an action plan. The DDA, SPTL is entrusted with implementation of plan.

An amount of ₹10 Lakh is earmarked for the purpose which includes the amount required to complete the procedure for disposal of stock.



#### **4. Disposal of sample drawn by inspectors (₹9.00 Lakh)**

The enforcement authorities target the sale of counterfeits, banned products and illegal trading of agricultural inputs. During the operation, the authorities seize or confiscate such chemicals. Similarly, remnant portions of samples after analysis which pile up in quality control laboratories, and the sample retained by insecticide inspectors and deposited with higher authority are either to be utilized properly or disposed of safely. The samples found standard may be utilised properly in department farms, Plant Health Clinics or Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) research stations based on the crops cultivated and quantity demanded, sufficiently before expiry period. This requires transportation, proper sealing and storage and handling of the remnant sample portion and subsequent disposal. The seized stock/banned chemicals need to be disposed of through appropriate methods like incineration.

The fertilizer samples deposited with the designated authority by the fertilizer inspectors shall be disposed of to departmental farms free of charge after completion of analysis and follow-up procedures by the Principal Agricultural Officer.

The insecticide inspector who has jurisdiction of a Panchayat or Block shall tender the fair price of one sample (sample sent for analysis) to the dealer, only if the sample is found to be standard and shall return the sample portion retained by the inspector to the dealer himself.

In the case of ADA(QC) who has jurisdiction of more than one district, the sample may be disposed of as above within the realm of possibility. If the sample is found to be standard, the inspector may tender the fair price of two samples (sample sent for analysis and retained by the inspector). The sample retained by the inspector may be disposed of in the same manner as in 3.2(1).

A district level committee shall be formed with Principal Agricultural Officer as chairperson and Deputy Director of Agriculture (E&T), ADAs (QC), representatives of KAU and departmental farms as members to work out an action plan. The PAO is entrusted with implementation of the plan.

The fund can also be utilised for handling and disposal of fertilisers seized during Central and State inspections. An amount of ₹9.00 Lakh earmarked for the component can be utilized for the above purposes.

#### **5. Handbooks / Publications /Advertisement**

##### **i)Purchase of Publications (₹2.5 Lakh)**

Publications incorporating the new amendments in Insecticides Act / Insecticides Rule, Essential Commodities Act / Fertilizer Control Order, Seed Act / Seed Rule, etc. need to be made available to all enforcement officers and quality testing laboratories. An amount of ₹2.5 Lakh earmarked for the component.

##### **ii) Handbook to enforcement officers - Updated Second Edition(₹2.00 Lakh)**

The first edition of Insecticide Inspector's Handbook and Handbook for Fertiliser Inspectors prepared during 2021 needs to be updated by incorporating new amendments

and made available to all enforcement officers and quality testing laboratories. An amount of ₹2.00 Lakh is earmarked for the component.

**iii) Laboratory safety manual (₹0.25 Lakh)**

A Laboratory Safety Manual is intended to meet the requirements of Laboratory Safety Standard. It shall describe policies, procedures, equipment, personal protective equipment, and establish work practices that are capable of protecting employees from the health hazards in pesticide and fertiliser testing laboratories. All laboratory workers must be made aware of this plan and must be available to all laboratory workers at all times. Before starting work in the lab, newly appointed staff members need to go through the plan and receive safety training from the laboratory head. An amount of ₹0.25 Lakh is earmarked for the component.

**a. Fertiliser Quality Control Laboratories**

Laboratory safety manual for the fertiliser quality control laboratories in Kerala shall be prepared jointly by Deputy Director, FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram, FQCL Palakkad and BOQCL Palakkad. The DDA, FQCL, Palakkad shall coordinate the preparation of the manual, approval of Director of Agriculture, printing and distribution to laboratories.

**b. Pesticide Testing Laboratory**

The laboratory safety manual for the chemical pesticide testing laboratory in the State shall be prepared by DDA, SPTL as above.

**iv) Brochure on pest control operations (₹1.5 Lakh)**

Commercial pest control operations involve the application or dispersion of insecticides, including fumigants, in various premises and land for commercial purposes. These operations address pest-related concerns in households, public or private premises or land. A statutory regulation of pest control operations through license is essential for ensuring responsible and safe management of pest control operations. It requires compliance with regulations, expertise in pest control practices, and a commitment to public health and environmental well-being. Failure to adhere to the specified responsibilities and obligations can result in the cancellation of the license. Compliance is crucial for safe and effective pest control, and to protect public health and the environment.

Raising public awareness about the statutory regulations and compliance is important to encourage good practices. Brochures shall be prepared for distribution to industry associations, chamber of commerce, hotel and restaurant associations, hospital associations, apartment owners associations, residents associations etc to create awareness among public about pest control operations. An amount of ₹1.5 Lakh is earmarked for the component

**v) Television programme / Radio advertising (₹2.0 Lakh)**

Apart from information brochure, Radio live read ads or Produced advertisement spots shall be broadcasted through Akashavaani and/or FM radio. An episode on pest control operations should be broadcasted through Kissan Krishideepam programme produced by Farm Information Bureau.

An amount of ₹2.0 Lakh is earmarked for the purpose. The above activities will be coordinated by the Additional Director of Agriculture (CP).

#### **6. Computer infrastructure and other accessories ( ₹1.00 Lakh)**

The State Enforcement Cell, District Enforcement Cell, sub offices and Quality Control Laboratories need to be supported by providing computer infrastructure and accessories required for proper functioning of the Quality Control Enforcement Wing. An amount of ₹ 1.0 Lakh is earmarked for the component.

#### **7. Development of web portal for online licensing of agricultural inputs (₹0.25 Lakh)**

The licensing of fertilizer and insecticide businesses in the State has been made online through KSWIFT portal. A web portal facilitating an on-line management system shall enable fast tracking of all the processes of licensing and quality enforcement of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides by the State Enforcement Wing. The web portal shall facilitate a Database/Registry of Certification, Registration and Licensing of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and update on a regular basis. An amount of ₹0.25 lakh is sanctioned for the component and can be utilized for development/refinements of the existing portal.

#### **8. Miscellaneous Activities (₹5.45 Lakh)**

The custodian shall create suitable/additional storage space within the jurisdiction for the safe custody of fertilizer samples deposited by the Fertilizer Inspectors. The expenses for creating the storage space can be met from the present scheme component "Miscellaneous" after obtaining approval from the undersigned.

The quality analysis of samples is one among the important activities of enforcement. The enforcement officers have to conduct frequent inspections, searches, raids, seize stock of fertilizers/pesticides, transport and store the seized stock etc when contravention of Act/Order is noticed. The officers incur expenses during the process of enforcement activities. Many exigencies arising in head office, sub offices and quality testing laboratories need to be managed in due course of quality control enforcement.

Purchase of stationery, packing materials and related articles for dispatch of referee samples etc are required at head office. Necessary infrastructural facilities such as chairs, furnishing, air conditioning etc., for the strengthening of the State Enforcement Cell shall also be provided under this component. The State Licensing Authority may need to call periodical meetings of District Licensing Authorities or State/District Enforcement Cells during the course of scheme implementation.

Amount which was expended during 2023-24 and not encashed under the scheme component is to be met from the current years budget provision. Encashment of the queue bills will also be met from this component

An amount of ₹ 5.45 Lakh is earmarked for meeting the above purposes.

#### **ABSTRACT OF TOTAL FINANCIAL ALLOCATION**

<b>Sl.No</b>	<b>COMPONENT</b>	<b>AMOUNT (Rs Lakh)</b>
<b>1</b>	Drawal of Samples	

i	Drawal of Samples of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds for Quality Control	20
ii	Drawal of surveillance samples of pesticides under the category of bioproducts	8
<b>2</b>	<b>Capacity Building Programmes</b>	
i	Training to manufacturers, fertiliser and pesticide input agencies and pest control operators	2.1
ii	Training to Master Trainers	2
iii	Training to Enforcement Officers	2.2
iv	Training to fertiliser dealers in the state on quality control	0
v	Inhouse Training to analysts in fertiliser quality testing laboratories	0.25
<b>3</b>	<b>Storage/ Disposal of samples of State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Disposal of sample drawn by inspectors.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Handbooks / Publications /Advertisement</b>	
i	Purchase of Publications	2.5
ii	Handbook to enforcement officers	2
iii	Laboratory safety manual	0.25
iv	Brochure on pest control operations	1.5
v	Television programme / Radio advertising	2
<b>6</b>	<b>Computer infrastructure and other accessories</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Development of web portal for online licensing of agricultural inputs</b>	<b>0.25</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Miscellaneous activities</b>	<b>5.45</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68.5</b>

The expenditure towards implementation of various components of this programme shall be debited under Head of Account 2401-00-105-86-34-03(OC) Plan. All rules, formalities and procedures must be strictly followed for the implementation of the programme . The norms of financial propriety in store purchase rule should be strictly adhered to for all kinds of purchases. Tender/ e-Tender formalities shall be followed wherever necessary.

The Deputy Directors of Agriculture (E&T) will be responsible for implementing the scheme in the districts and prepare an implementation schedule to complete the project in time and send a regular progress report on financial and physical progress on 5th of every month. The Principal Agricultural Officer in the respective districts shall monitor the implementation of the programme . The Additional Director of Agriculture (CP) will monitor progress of the programme at the state level and will ensure that the implementation of the entire programme 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 and funds proposed to be placed in e-LAMS.

This circular is being issued by the undersigned with the powers vested upon for ensuring the enforcement of the law, its monitoring and ensuring compliance at all levels with immediate effect.

Dr ADEELA ABDULLA IAS  
#ApprovedByDesignation#  
**Director of Agriculture**

- To 1) All Additional Directors of Agriculture & SAE  
2) All Principal Agricultural Officers & Executive Engineers (Agri.)  
3) Deputy Director of Agriculture FQCL, Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkad  
4) Deputy Director of Agriculture, SPTL, Thiruvananthapuram  
5) Deputy Director of Agriculture BOQCL, Palakkad  
6) Assistant Director of Agriculture (QC), Thiruvananthapuram Alappuzha,  
Thrissur, Kozhikode  
7) TA to DA  
8) Stock File

- Copy to: 1) Planning Section  
2) IT Cell for for publication through Department website