

Directorate of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

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No:ADFW/4258/2026-TS(2)

Date:02-09-2026

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare Department
Scheme on "Development of Spices" 2026-2027 Working
Instructions issued-reg

Ref:- 1) G.O.(Rt) No.717/2026/AGRI Dated 29-07-2026

2)Letter No. ADFW/4017/2026-TP2 dated 08-07-2026

Vide references cited above,continuous Administrative sanction has been accorded for the scheme on "Development of spices" during the financial year 2026 - 2027 for an amount of Rs. 2000.00 Lakh (Rupees Two thousand lakh only) under the Head of Account 2401-00-108-59 (Plan). After deducting the committed expense for 2025-26 from the allocated amount , the remaining amount is utilized for implementing the plan for current financial year.

The detailed working instruction with components and split up of amount of each component is given below.

1. Area Expansion of Perennial Spices

The Perennial Spices proposed to be supported under the scheme are Black Pepper , Nutmeg and Clove.

1.1 Area Expansion of Black Pepper (425.80084 Lakh)

a) Establishment of new pepper garden with improved varieties of pepper will be undertaken using promising and performing indigenous varieties.High yielding varieties developed by research stations and raised in Departmental farms and decentralized nurseries under the scheme, for improving the production and productivity of pepper.

b) The estimated cost for the establishment of one hectare of pepper garden is Rs 40000/- by the internal estimation conducted by the department. An

assistance to the tune of Rs. 17000 per hectare can be given for planting materials, critical inputs needed during their planting, prophylactic pest and disease management practices at the time of planting etc. The assistance for the components which are taken up by the farmers themselves shall be disbursed to them as Direct Benefit Transfer / e-payment on the basis of field inspections, verification and necessary certifications by the field level officials of the Department.

High yielding varieties of pepper shall be preferred, as improving the production and productivity of the crops is of utmost importance.

c) In the case of planting material distribution, the implementing officers shall procure good quality rooted pepper cuttings from the departmental farms and shall be distributed to the farmers. Quality of the same shall be ensured by BLAKC Scientist, Assistant Director of Agriculture of the concerned block and the Agricultural officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan before procuring for distribution. In any case the assistance shall not exceed the rate as specified from the state scheme provisions but by integrating this scheme with other scheme like MIDH, LSGD etc so as to get maximum benefits for the farmers.

NOTE : If sufficient planting materials are not available in the departmental farms for meeting the requirement of the farmers, the implementing officials are having the liberty to procure planting materials from the department sponsored decentralized nurseries, other government agencies and suppliers. However, quality of the same shall be insured by BLAKC Scientist, Assistant Director of Agriculture of the concerned block and the Agricultural officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan before procuring for distribution.

d) The scheme is intended only for small and marginal farmers of the state. Applications in the prevailing format along with required land records for ensuring the area are mandatory. Applicant shall be a registered farmer in the AIMS Portal.

e) The amount allocated to the Black Pepper component for the current financial year include the committed expenses for 2025-26. Therefore after deducting the committed expenses, the balance amount can be utilized for the Black pepper component during the current financial year.

An amount of Rs. 310.00 lakh is sanctioned for this component of the

scheme for meeting a minimum requirement of 1823.53ha for 2026-27, and the expenditure in this regard shall be debited from the Head of Account 2401-00-108-59 (P). The district wise targets for the scheme components are appended as Annexure I of this circular.

1.2. Area Expansion of Nutmeg (Rs. 140.89046 Lakh)

a) Nutmeg grafts of orthotropic origin will be given thrust for the area expansion of nutmeg. It is estimated that the cost of planting materials alone required for one hectare is around Rs. 40,000 /- . The distribution of planting materials of good quality at 100% assistance will be covered under the scheme. A total area of 292.85765 Ha will be covered under this component with financial outlay of Rs. 117.14306 lakh.

b) The Agricultural Officers/ AFOs can procure good quality orthotropic nutmeg grafts from the Departmental farms, other Government agencies, approved nurseries, Government sponsored nurseries and can be supplied to eligible farmers. The beneficiary farmers also have the liberty to obtain good quality grafts from any of the sources as mentioned above according to their choice and convenience and in that case, the quality of them shall be ascertained by the team of officials as mentioned in para 1(c).

Note: In the case of procurement from the Government approved nurseries, the quality check shall be done by BLAKC Assistant Director of Agriculture of the concerned block and the Agricultural Officer of the concerned Krishi Bhavan before procuring by the implementing officers . If the farmer himself procures them he shall inform the source well in advance to the AO's / AFOs for initiating and completing the quality check. If the approved nursery falls outside the jurisdiction of the district, the committee of the concerned district shall do the procedure and inform the concerned.

c) The maximum rate of assistance per grafts shall be Rs. 250.00 or the actual cost of it whichever is less. In the case of procurement by the farmers themselves the eligible financial assistance shall be passed on to them by e-payment procedure after proper evaluation and certification by the field level officials.

d) It must be observed that, only good quality grafts are being given to farmers/ brought by them. The register pertaining to this scheme shall have the following information for future references and monitoring.

- i. GIS location of the farm.
- ii. Variety and source of grafts
- iii. Approximate age of the grafts at the time of planting.
- iv. Expected time for getting the full yield from them.

e) The Assistant Directors of Agriculture of the concerned blocks shall get a copy of the concerned pages of the register before initiating the payment.

f) The AOs /AFOs shall issue standing instructions for managing the nutmeg farms as per the following package of practices as published by the KAU.

i. Nutmeg requires a hot, humid climate without pronounced dry season. The soil should be rich in organic matter and well drained.

ii. The tree prefers partial shade. Sheltered valleys are the best suited. It can be grown up to about 900m above MSL. For planting, Since the nutmeg trees require shade, suitable fast growing shade trees like Albizia, Erythrina etc are to be planted in advance. Banana can also be grown as a shade crop in the early stages. Suitable coconut plantations shall be given preference.

iii. Pits of 90 cm x 90cm x 90cm are dug at a spacing of 8m x 8m with the onset of southwest monsoon. The pits are filled with topsoil and compost or well decomposed cattle manure and seedlings are planted.

iv. Manuring Apply 10 kg cattle manure or compost per seedling during the first year. Increase the quantity gradually till a well grown tree of 15 years and above receives 50 kg of organic manures per year. Apply N:P₂O₅:K₂O@20:18:50 g/plant during the first year. This may be doubled in the next year. Gradually increase the N:P₂O₅:K₂O dose to 500:250:1000 g/plant/year to obtain full dose from 15th year onwards.

(Note: Fertilizer application shall be as per soil test data only). Harvesting fruits are available throughout the year, but the peak period of harvest is from June to July. When fruits are fully ripe, the nuts split open. These are either plucked from the tree or allowed to drop.

g) The scheme is intended only for small and marginal farmers of the state. Applications in the prevailing format along with required land records for ensuring the area are mandatory. Applicant shall be a registered farmer

in the AIMS Portal.

e)The amount allocated to the Nutmeg component for the current financial year included the committed expenses for 2025-26. Therefore after deducting the committed expenses, the balance amount can be utilized for the Nutmeg component during the current financial year.

It is sanctioned to establish nutmeg in an area of 292.85765 ha with a financial outlay of Rs.117.14306 lakh with financial assistance @ 40000/Ha. During 2026-27 for implementing this component of the scheme and the targets for the same are appended as Annexure II of this circular.

1.3 Area Expansion of Clove (Rs. 20.00 Lakh)

a) The PAOs are directed to establish clove as an intercrop in suitable coconut gardens under their jurisdiction and necessary instructions to the sub offices shall be given by them.

b) Cost of planting materials at a maximum rate of Rs.13,750 per hectare is admissible under this scheme component.

c) For the procurement and distribution of planting materials, the instruction as given under 2(b) shall be adhered to.

d) The Package of Practices by KAU shall be the standard for implementing this component of the scheme.

e)The scheme is intended only for small and marginal farmers of the state.Applications in the prevailing format along with required land records for ensuring the area are mandatory. Applicant shall be a registered farmer in the AIMS Portal.

f) The amount allocated to the Clove component for the current financial year included the committed expenses for 2025-26. Therefore after deducting the committed expenses, the balance amount can be utilized for the Clove component during the current financial year.

An amount of Rs.20.00 lakh is sanctioned for this component of the scheme in an area of 145.45 ha with financial assistance of 13,750 /Ha. The targets

for the same are appended as Annexure III of this circular.

2) Area expansion of Ginger and Turmeric (Rs. 500.00 Lakh)

a) The cultivation of ginger and turmeric with high yielding varieties adopting scientific cultural practices is to be undertaken for increasing production and productivity as part of the scheme.

b) An assistance of Rs. 15,000/- per hectare is sanctioned for planting materials, lime, compost/farm yard manure, wood ash, bio fertilizers and bio control agents. Biocontrol agents (biopesticides) are to be procured from the State Biocontrol Laboratory, Mannuthy and bio fertilizers shall be purchased from approved sources like laboratories/farms of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University, Central Government institutions and licensed agencies.

c) The scheme is intended only for small and marginal farmers of the state. Applications in the prevailing format along with required land records for ensuring the area are mandatory. Applicant shall be a registered farmer in the AIMS Portal.

(d) The amount allocated to the Ginger and Turmeric component for the current financial year included the committed expenses for 2025-26. Therefore after deducting the committed expenses, the balance amount can be utilized for the Ginger and Turmeric component during the current financial year.

An amount of Rs. 375.33875 lakh is sanctioned for a total minimum area of 2502.25830 Ha and the targets for the same are appended as Annexure IV of this circular.

3) Establishment of decentralized pepper nurseries (Rs. 5 Lakh)

a) This component of the scheme is intended for farmer groups/ clusters and application in the prevailing format is mandatory.

b) Small scale pepper nurseries with production capacity of 0.25 to 0.5 lakh cuttings per nursery per year shall be operated through Krishikootams, SHGs, Women Groups, Unemployed youths etc, with technical support

from Department of Agriculture, Kerala Agricultural University and Research institutions, Central Government institutions, KVKs etc.

c) Rapid Multiplication technology for pepper, serpentine layering etc, shall be adopted.

d) A maximum amount of Rs. 30,000 can be utilized for the establishment of de-centralized pepper nurseries. This amount shall be used for the requirements like establishment of shade houses, preparation of potting mixture, bio-control agents, etc. The unit shall function for at least 3 years from the date of establishment.

e) The amount allocated to the pepper nurseries component for the current financial year included the committed expenses for 2025-26. Therefore after deducting the committed expenses, the balance amount can be utilized for the pepper nurseries component during the current financial year.

An amount of Rs.4.1 lakh is sanctioned for providing assistance for the establishment of decentralized nurseries @ Rs. 30,000/- per unit (having production capacity 0.5 lakh cuttings per annum) for various districts are appended as Annexure V.

4) Project mode support for adoption of improved integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) practices in black pepper (New)

(860.00 Lakh)

Selected black pepper garden will be provided assistance (Project based) adoption of improved Integrated Pests and Disease Management (IPDM) practices, for which an amount of Rs.860.00 lakh is earmarked. Major emphasis will be given to black pepper growing areas in this Idukki and Wayanad districts. The selection of gardens will be based on the performance criteria as approved by the working group and the rate of assistance will be fixed based on the advanced/improved management practice recommended by Kerala Agricultural University. The demonstration of improved techniques in black pepper cultivation will also be supported under this component.

The scope for convergence with the activities under the MIDH scheme should be ensured the implementation of the scheme and the targets for the

same are appended as Annexure VI of this circular.

5) Adoption of integrated and improved management practices Committed Expenses 2025-2026 (46.07710)

This component has not been included in the current year plan. However, the committed expenditure for the year 2025-2026 has been approved.

6) Committed Expenses of 2025-26

The committed expenses amount for 2025-26 has been allocated from the amount allotted to each component for the current year. Targets for the same are appended as Annexure VII of this circular.

7) Financial abstract of the scheme.

(a) The detailed financial abstract of the scheme components is presented below.

Sl. No.	Name of the components	Rate per unit	No. of units	Amount required for implementation of components of current financial year (₹ in lakh)	Committed expenses 2025-26 (₹ in lakh)	Amount (₹ in lakh)
1	Area expansion of Perennial spices					
1.1	Area expansion of Black Pepper	₹17000/ha	1823.53 ha	310.00	115.80084	425.80084
1.2	Area expansion Nutmeg	₹40000/ha	292.8576 5 ha	117.14306	23.74740	140.89046
1.3	Area expansion of Clove	₹13750/ha	145.45 ha	20.00	2.237	22.237
	Sub Total					588.9283

2	Area Expansion of Annual Spices (Ginger & Turmeric)	₹15 000/ ha	2502.258 30 ha	375.3387 5	124.66125	500.00
3	Establishment of Decentralized Black Pepper Nurseries	₹30000 000/ ha	13 no.s	4.1	0.9	5.00
4	Project base d support for adoption of integrated Pe st and Diseas e Manageme nt (IPDM) pr actices in Bl ack pepper	project based				860.00
5	Committed E xpenditure - Adoption of integrated & improved ma nagement pr actices (2025 -26)				46.07170	46.07170
	Total				313.41819	2000.00

10. Scheme Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

(a) The Project Manager of this scheme shall be the Additional Director(CP) and the district level monitoring shall be done by DDA(H) under the concerned PAOs.

(b) The scheme shall be implemented through the Krishi Bhavans of the state .Wide publicity shall be given through mass media. Assistant

Directors of Agriculture will co-ordinate and supervise the programme at the Block level.

(c) The fund release shall be based on actual requirement, and the fund released should not be parked at any level. (d) Regular field visits are to be conducted at the field level. The nodal DDAs and concerned ADAs shall conduct periodical inspections and evaluations.

(e) All PAOs are directed to conduct field inspections for monitoring the programme implementation.

(f) Monthly progress report should invariably contain component wise physical and financial targets and achievements, number of beneficiaries and the stage of implementation of each component.

Director of Agriculture

To

All Additional Directors of Agriculture & SAE

Copy to

- 1. All PAO'S**
- 2. TA to Director**
- 3. Senior Finance Officer**
- 4. Planning Section for allotment of funds**
- 5. SW & M&E Section**
- 6. Finance, Accounts and Audit Sections**
- 7. All Technical Sections**
- 8. IT Cell (for publishing in website)**
- 9. Stock file.**

Annexure 1- Area Expansion of Black Pepper @ 17000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial (Rs.in lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	176	29.92
2	Kollam	157	26.69
3	Pathanamthitta	118	20.06

4	Alappuzha	70	11.9
5	Kottayam	124	21.08
6	Idukki	290	49.3
7	Ernakulam	145	24.65
8	Thrissur	124	21.08
9	Palakkad	62	10.54
10	Malappuram	104	17.68
11	Kozhikkode	85.53	14.54
12	Wayanad	189	32.13
13	Kannur	104	17.68
14	Kasargod	75	12.75
	TOTAL	1823.53	310.00

Annexure II - Area Expansion of Nutmeg @ 40000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial (Rs.in lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	22.5	9
2	Kollam	20	8
3	Pathanamthitta	17.5	7
4	Alappuzha	15	6
5	Kottayam	22.5	9
6	Idukki	25	10
7	Ernakulam	22.5	9
8	Thrissur	22.5	9
9	Palakkad	17.5	7
10	Malappuram	20	8
11	Kozhikkode	20	8
12	Wayanad	27.5	11
13	Kannur	22.5	9
14	Kasargod	17.85765	7.14306
	TOTAL	292.85765	117.14306

Annexure III - Area Expansion of Clove @ 13750/ha

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial (Rs. in lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	25.46	3.50
2	Kollam	10.90	1.50

3	Pathanamthitta	10.90	1.50
4	Alappuzha	7.27	1
5	Kottayam	10.90	1.50
6	Idukki	10.90	1.50
7	Ernakulam	10.90	1.50
8	Thrissur	10.90	1.50
9	Palakkad	3.64	.50
10	Malappuram	7.28	1
11	Kozhikkode	7.28	1
12	Wayanad	18.19	2.50
13	Kannur	7.28	1
14	Kasargod	3.64	.50
	TOTAL	145.45	20.00

Annexure IV- Area expansion of Ginger and Turmeric @ 15000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial (Rs. in lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	187.67	28.1505
2	Kollam	162.65	24.3975
3	Pathanamthitta	125.11	18.7665
4	Alappuzha	112.6	16.89
5	Kottayam	150.14	22.521
6	Idukki	287.76	43.164
7	Ernakulam	225.2	33.78
8	Thrissur	150.14	22.521
9	Palakkad	175.16	26.274
10	Malappuram	137.62	20.643
11	Kozhikkode	150.14	22.521
12	Wayanad	325.2783	48.79175
13	Kannur	150.14	22.521
14	Kasargod	162.65	24.3975
	TOTAL	2502.2583	375.33875

187.67

Annexure V - Establishment of decentralized nurseries @ 30000/ha

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial
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1	Thiruvananthapuram	1	(Rs. in lakh) 0.2
2	Kollam	1	0.3
3	Pathanamthitta	1	0.3
4	Alappuzha	1	0.3
5	Kottayam		
6	Idukki	2	0.6
7	Ernakulam	1	0.3
8	Thrissur	1	0.3
9	Palakkad		
10	Malappuram	2	0.6
11	Kozhikkode	1	0.3
12	Wayanad	1	0.3
13	Kannur	1	0.3
14	Kasargod	1	0.3
	TOTAL	13	4.1

Annexure VI - Project mode support for adoption of improved integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM) practices in black pepper (New)

Sl.No	Name of the District	Physical (ha)	Financial (in lakh)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	Project based	860.00
2	Kollam		
3	Pathanamthitta		
4	Alappuzha		
5	Kottayam		
6	Idukki		
7	Ernakulam		
8	Thrissur		
9	Palakkad		
10	Malappuram		
11	Kozhikkode		
12	Wayanad		
13	Kannur		
14	Kasargod		
	TOTAL		860.00

Annexure VII - Committed expenditure 2025-26

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Amount
1	Thiruvananthapuram	29.07363
2	Kollam	30.92325
3	Pathanamthitta	17.98583
4	Alappuzha	9.3089
5	Kottayam	26.5919
6	Idukki	45.78865
7	Ernakulam	28.09405
8	Thrissur	17.79128
9	Palakkad	8.3936
10	Malappuram	17.87165
11	Kozhikkode	17.75613
12	Wayanad	41.14771
13	Kannur	17.25769
14	Kasargod	5.43392
	TOTAL	313.41819

Dr Sriram Venkitaraman IAS
DIRECTOR
Director of Agriculture

To

- 1) All PAO's
- 2) TP2 Section

Digitally signed by
SURENDRAN A
Date: 05-09-2026
15:53:22

Copy to

- 1. All PAO'S**
- 2. TA to Director**
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