

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Agriculture Department - Procedure for input supplies and
subsidy disbursement - Instructions issued.

AGRICULTURE (ACRI) DEPARTMENT

O. (Rt) No. 1031/02/AD Dated Thiruvananthapuram 2.9.02.

Read:- G.O. (Rt) No. 690/2002/AD dt. 1.7.2002.

O R D E R

In the G.O. read above the Government have issued orders on adoption of a system for dealing with requests from different manufacturing companies for approval and purchase of agricultural inputs manufactured by them under the schemes of the Agriculture Department.

2. Government have been receiving a large number of complaints regarding the malpractices and corruptions in the disbursement of subsidies under different schemes of the Agriculture Department. In order to streamline the procedure and also to improve efficiency of the department the Government are pleased to issue the following guidelines to be followed for a fair and transparent system for distribution of subsidies under the scheme implemented by the Agriculture Department.

- (i) Working instructions for all schemes should contain clear criteria for selection of beneficiaries and these criteria should be widely publicised.
- (ii) Selection of beneficiaries in accordance with norms should be finalised at the level of Agricultural Officer in the Krishi Bhavan or the Assistant Director of Agriculture at the block level in consultation with Karshika Vikasana Samithies at Panchayats and district level, clearly explaining criteria, used and the process adopted for selection. The list of beneficiaries need not be sent to higher levels for approval.
- (iii) Lists of applicants and beneficiaries under all schemes and the benefits disbursed to them should be prominently displayed in all Krishi Bhavans so as to have transparency in the dealings. Krishi Bhavans should be willing to share information.

3. The main role of Agriculture Department is extension of information to farmers. Even when orders are extended to farmers for inputs, it is the duty of department to physically procure and distribute inputs. In order to ensure the above mentioned role of department the following instructions are issued.

1. Departmental officers shall not undertake the procurement and distribution of inputs even where they are to subsidies under schemes (except in the case of seedlings produced by departmental farms)

(ii) Wherever inputs, subsidies are to be given Krishi Bhavan Officers should give only permits to eligible beneficiaries for procurement of inputs from Co-operative Societies/ Kerala Agro Industries Corporation (KAIC) Limited. Subsidies shall be paid directly to Co-operative Societies of the input subsidies being given so that they plan the stocking of inputs properly and in time. The quality of inputs supplied to beneficiaries by the Societies / Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited shall be monitored.

(iii) In the case of fertilisers and pesticides only those products which meet the specifications prescribed in the Fertiliser control Order and Insecticides Act and Rules respectively shall be included in the recommended list of brands and manufacturers. Only products of licenced manufacturers shall be included in the recommended list. The Inspector and Agricultural Officers shall ensure that spurious products of pesticides are not stocked by Co-operatives or other dealers.

(iv) For other products like organic manure, bio-fertiliser, bio pesticides etc. for which no statutory standards exist, a technical committee constituted in the G.O. read above (ie., with the Director of Agriculture as Chairman and the Director of Research, Kerala Agricultural University, Additional Director (CP) and the Additional Director (Kort) as members). This committee shall prepare the approved list after getting all the applicant products tested by the Kerala Agricultural University and other appropriate agencies. These tests have to be carried out in relation to certain quality norms prescribed by Kerala Agricultural University/ the above mentioned committee (eg. in the case of organic manure, there should be some minimum acceptable level of different nutrients etc and may also indicate the crop to which each is best suited. Inputs subsidies should be given only for products in the approved list or products supplied by approved suppliers, as the case may be. Within the approved list, the choice of brand shall be left to the farmers.

(v) For supply of planting materials (not produced by the Department) to self-help Groups, etc., floriculture, the Department should not attempt direct procurement and supply. Instead, it should only approve a list of quality suppliers (mainly large, well established companies) and leave it to the Groups or beneficiaries to procure planting materials from any of the approved suppliers.

department shall not make any attempt to fix the price of seeds or planting material, though its subsidy should have an upper ceiling irrespective of the supplier which the material is purchased.

4. The instructions issued in this G.O. shall be immediately followed by the departmental officers with immediate effect.

5. The Principal Information Officer, Farm Information Bureau shall take steps to give wide publicity to these instructions and incorporate information on this G.O. in the next issue of Kerala Karshakan.

By order of the Governor,
PALAT MOHANDAS
Agricultural Production Commissioner

The Director of Agriculture, Thiruvananthapuram. et.

JF

1. on (3) 41132/02 Directorate of Agriculture,
Thiruvananthapuram,
Dated: 07/10/92

Copy communicated to All Principal Agricultural Officers for urgent necessary action.

for DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

By to: Audit Section (HQ).
All implementing sections (HQ)
SVC section (HQ)
spare / JF (3) 29113/02.