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PART - II

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GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY CHIEF SECRETARIAT (AGRICULTURE)

(G.O. Ms. No. 17/Ag., Puducherry, dated 06th January 2023)

NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been implementing the Scheme component "Distribution of Horticulture Inputs at subsidized cost to the farmers in Union territory of Puducherry for increasing production and productivity of Horticultural Crops" under the Scheme "Integrated Horticulture Development Programme through Diversification in Agriculture" *vide* G.O. Ms. No. 8/Ag., dated 21-07-2017 of Chief Secretariat (Agriculture and Forests) and G.O. Ms. No. 8/Ag., dated 21-08-2019 of Chief Secretariat (Agriculture).

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2. Approval of the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry is hereby accorded for the operational guidelines, as appended herewith, in supersession of the notifications issued *vide* G.Os mentioned in the first paragraph above for implementation of the Scheme component "Distribution of Horticulture crop seeds @ 50% subsidy to all category of farmers" under the Scheme "Integrated Horticulture Development Programme through Diversification in Agriculture". It shall come into effect immediately.

3. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department *vide* its I.D. No. 20882/FC/FD/F5/A2/2022, dated 14-12-2022.

(By order)

SUNDARARAJAN. P., Deputy Secretary to Government (Agriculture).

GUIDELINES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF HORTICULTURE INPUTS AT SUBSIDIZED COST TO THE FARMERS IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY FOR INCREASING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF HORTICULTURAL CROPS

I. Introduction.— Farmers are now shifting from traditional subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture due to changing food habits of people and the need for diversification has made a farmer to adopt horticulture crop production even in small land holdings. As some of the horticulture crops are generally short duration crops, these are suitable for mixed, companion and intercropping. This results in high croping intensity and higher income per unit area. The production and distribution of quality/certified seeds to the farmers at subsidized cost is primarily the responsibility of the State Government as the Private Sector is the dominant player in case of horticulture crop seed production and the price fixed by them is the prime factor for a farmer to take up horticulture crop cultivation. Hence, to motivate farmers and to increase the area and cropping intensity of horticultural crops, it is proposed to distribute horticulture crop seeds at subsidized rates to the farmers of Union territory of Puducherry for the cultivation of horticultural crops under the Scheme 'Distribution of horticulture crop seeds at 50% subsidy'.

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II. **Objectives.**— The main objectives of this Scheme is;

(1) To promote the farmers to take up horticulture crop cultivation thereby diversifying agriculture and increase the area under horticulture crops in Puducherry region.

(2) To provide quality seeds at subsidized cost to all the farmers of Puducherry Union Territory.

(3) To retain the interest of farmers and farm women in horticulture.

III. **Pattern of Assistance.**— (i) Distribution of horticulture crop seeds @ 50% subsidy to all category of farmers.

(ii) Distribution of vegetable minikits and fruit minikits worth ₹250 per minikit at free of cost for the establishment of nutritional gardens in rural/urban areas.

(iii) Distribution of horticulture kit to urban and rural areas (Homestead/Backyards) containing vegetable seeds and seedlings, ready soil mixture, vermi compost, garden tools and implements, water saving appliances, bio-fertilizer, neem oil/cake, *etc.*, @ 75% subsidy subject to a maximum of \gtrless 3,000 per kit.

IV. Eligibility criteria of beneficiaries.— (1) The assistance is open to farmers of all categories who are having land holdings in Union territory of Puducherry.

(2) The selected farmers should have own land/leased land to the eligible extent to avail the benefit of the Scheme.

V. **Modalities of the Scheme.**—(1) The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare will make publicity through mass media and Uzhavar Udhaviyagam/Official website and create awareness among the farmers about the distribution of horticulture crop(s) seeds at subsidized cost. To avail the subsidy, the farmers in the Union territory of Puducherry would be advised to submit the application clearly mentioning the name(s) of horticulture crop(s) and variety name(s) to the Office of the Additional Director of Agriculture (Horticulture), ADA (Karaikal), DDA (Mahe), and DDA (Yanam) through their jurisdictional Uzhavar Udhaviyagam's of this Union Territory.

(2) The office of the Additional Director of Agriculture (Horticulture), ADA (Karaikal), DDA (Mahe), and DDA (Yanam) will assess the area under horticulture crops proposed to be covered for each

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season viz., Thaipattam and/or Adipattam and accordingly work out the quantity of horticulture crop seeds required for distribution.

(3) Upon obtaining Administrative Approval from the Director of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Puducherry, for distribution of horticulture crop seeds at subsidized rate, the office of the Additional Director of Agriculture (Horticulture), ADA (Karaikal), DDA (Mahe), and DDA (Yanam) will place indent with M/s. PASIC Ltd., as the case may be and request to stock the seeds in the respective depot.

(4) In case of non-availability/non-supply of seeds by M/s. PASIC Ltd., the procurement of quality seeds should be made from M/s. National Seeds Corporation Ltd., Chennai, IIHR, Bengaluru or from the farmers who undertake horticulture crop seed production in the Union territory of Puducherry.

(5) The procurement of quality seeds from authentic sources by M/s. PASIC Ltd., shall be in accordance with the GFR, 2017.

(6) After stocking of indented horticulture crop seeds at the Outlets of M/s. PASIC Ltd., permits for distribution of horticulture crop seeds will be issued to the farmers based on their eligibility and requirement.

(7) Only after the procurement and distribution of indented horticulture crop seeds, the invoice obtained from M/s. PASIC Ltd., will be settled on actual basis to the extent of subsidy extended, with 10% service charge applicable to PASIC upon obtaining necessary expenditure sanction from the Competent Authority.

VI. **Monitoring/Evaluation.**— The Scheme component will be monitored by the Office of the Additional Director of Agriculture (Horticulture)/Botanical Garden, Puducherry, ADA (Karaikal), DDA (Mahe), and DDA (Yanam) periodically on the effectiveness of the Scheme and any modifications to the Scheme will be made with the approval of the Government.

VII. **Interpretation/Doubts.**— If, any doubt arises in the matter of implementation of the Scheme component, the decision of the Secretary to the Government (Agriculture) shall be the final and binding.

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