

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Agriculture & Cooperation Department – Containment, Control and Prevention of COVID-19 Epidemic – Consolidated Revised Guidelines – Action Plan for operationalization of revised guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, during the Lock Down period to enable the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture activities in the State with reasonable safeguards – Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (AGRI. II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 342

Dated: 29-04-2020.
Read the following:-

1. Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A), dt.24.03.2020.
2. G.O.Rt.No.216, H.M. & F.W. (B2) Dept., dt.24.03.2020.
3. Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A), dt.14.04.2020.
4. G.O.Rt.No.238, H.M. & F.W. (B2) Dept., dt.14.04.2020.
5. Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India Order No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A), dt.15.04.2020.
6. G.O.Rt.No.239, H.M. & F.W. (B2) Dept., dt.16.04.2020.
7. From the Commissioner of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur Note dt.NIL.
8. From the Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur Letter No.1/RKVY/ 2020, dt.21.04.2020.
9. From the Commissioner of Sericulture, A.P., Guntur Letter No.AGC01-15049/ 2/2020-PLG-SEC-CSER, dt.21.04.2020.

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ORDER:

The COVID-19 outbreak has occurred in Wuhan, Hubei province in China in December, 2019 and has rapidly spread throughout the globe, with startling speed and was recognised by the World Health Organization as a Global Pandemic.

2. Recognizing the extreme danger to Public Health and Safety, the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the reference 2nd read above, has instituted Lockdown till 14th April, 2020, under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India for the Containment of COVID-19 Pandemic. Barring the essential services, all commercial / non-essential services have been shut down.

3. In the reference 4th read above, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has further extended the Lockdown till 3rd May, 2020 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for the Containment of COVID-19 Pandemic.

4. In the reference 6th read above, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has issued "Consolidated Revised Guidelines" incorporating certain relaxations and stated that to mitigate hardship to the public, select additional activities will be allowed, which will come into effect from 20th April, 2020 as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The following are the activities will be functional pertaining to the Agriculture & Cooperation Department under Para No.6 (A) of the Revised Consolidated Guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 15.04.2020:

AGRICULTURAL AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

All Agricultural and Horticultural activities to remain fully functional:

- i) Farming Operations by farmers and farm workers in field;
- ii) Agencies engaged in procurement of agriculture products, including MSP operations;
- iii) 'Mandis' operated by the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) or as notified by the State / UT Government (e.g., Satellite Mandis). Direct marketing operations by the State / UT Government or by industry, directly from farmers / group of farmers, FPOs' Cooperatives, etc. States / UTs may promote decentralised marketing and procurement at village level;

Pto.....

- iv) Shops of agriculture machinery, its spare parts (including its supply chain) and repairs to remain open;
- v) 'Custom Hiring Centres (CHC)' related to farm machinery;
- vi) Manufacturing, distribution and retail of fertilizers, pesticides and seeds;
- vii) Movement (inter and intra State) of harvesting and sowing related machines like combined harvester and other Agriculture / Horticulture implements.

5. In compliance to the above, the Agriculture & Cooperation Department has formulated the Action Plan for operationalization of guidelines to enable the Agriculture, Horticulture and Sericulture activities in the State with reasonable safeguards, which are Annexed[Annexure-I,II & III] to this Order.

6. All the District Collectors, the Superintendents of Police/the Commissioners of Police in the State of A.P, the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., and the Commissioner of Horticulture & Sericulture, A.P., are hereby instructed to implement the Action Plans strictly as per the Revised Guidelines communicated, vide G.O 6th read above.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (AGRI)

To

All the District Collectors.

All the Superintendents of Police/the Commissioners of Police.

The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P., Guntur.

The Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P., Guntur.

The Commissioner of Sericulture, A.P., Guntur.

Copy to:

P.S. to Min. (Agri.).

P.S. to Chief Secretary to Govt.

P.S. to Spl.C.S. (Agri.).

P.S. to Special Chief Secretary, HM & FW Dept.

P.S. to Principal Secretary, TR&B Department.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE – I

(Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.342 , Agri. & Coop. (Agri. II) Dept., dt.29.04.2020).

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Department of Agriculture

Farming operations by the farmers and farm labour in the field:

- The farmers in the state have raised agricultural crops in an extent of 22.5 lakh ha during Rabi-2019-20 in the state and all these crops are in the harvesting stage. Mainly the crops like paddy, Maize, Jowar, pulses like green gram and black gram, oilseeds like ground nut and sesamum are at peak stage.
- Necessary permissions for the movement of the agriculture labour is to be ensured by issuing the movement pass to the agriculture labour from concerned authority.
- Arrangements were made for movement of harvesting machinery both inter and intra district movement by arranging the movement passes to the agencies handling the harvesters.
- Measures were also taken to get back the harvesting machines available in the neighbouring states by coordinating with the concerned State & District authorities.
- 2985 Combined Harvesters & 1746 Paddy reapers are made available in respective districts to harvest paddy.
- 465 Maize Harvesters & 260 maize shellers are made available in respective districts to harvest paddy.
- Control rooms have been opened at State and District HQs for enabling the farmers to harvest their crops without any problem. All the harvesters supplied to the farmer groups earlier were mapped and facilitated to move to the districts where ever necessary.
- A model price ranging from Rs.1800 to 2200 per hour is decided as hiring charges for harvesting of paddy crop. Dept. has taken all the measures not to charge more than the above rates.
- Follow social distancing and wear masks while undergoing Harvesting & procurement operations.
- Farmers and agricultural labour are to be created the awareness in using the sanitizers while handling the farm machinery.
- The Department of Agriculture at district level is directed to ensure opening the shops engaged in supply of farm machinery and spare parts to the farm machinery duly following proper sanitisation procedures as per the directions of the Medical & health department issued from time to time.

Procurement operations including MSP operations:

- The department of Agriculture have registered all the farmers growing different crops during Rabi-2019-20 in e-Crop application and the procurement agencies designated in the state for the procurement of various crops from the farmers were provided access to the data base of the farmers register under e-Crop application.
- The software team of the e-Crop and the software team engaged by the procurement agencies are given sufficient direction to coordinate with each other to resolve the issues arising in the procurement centres when the farmers brought their produce for selling.
- Arrangements were made for decentralisation the procurement centres to avoid congregation of the farmers at the centres.
- The Agriculture Department have made arrangements through Village level extension staff for registering the farmers who are willing to offer their produce to the procurement centres and these farmers were given information through SMS with the details of date and place procurement to avoid congregation.
- Procurement staff were directed to ensure to maintain social distancing and wear face masks and to create awareness among the farmers to do so.

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No. of Procurement centres opened by Civil Supplies Corporation & A.P. Markfed .

Sl.No.	District	Paddy		Bengalgram	Redgram	Maize	Jowar
		Proposed	Opened				
1.	Srikakulam	52	52	0	0	35	0
2.	Vizianagaram	40	0	0	0	30	0
3.	Visakhapatnam	20	35	0	0	2	0
4.	East Godavari	284	271	4	0	11	1
5.	West Godavari	328	328	0	0	78	0
6.	Krishna	267	267	9	8	38	0
7.	Guntur	62	52	10	10	67	32
8.	Prakasam	37	43	52	68	20	2
9.	SPSR Nellore	179	179	4	0	4	4
10.	Chittoor	17	17	0	2	2	0
11.	YSR Kadapa	11	1	40	7	0	2
12.	Ananthapuramu	0	0	13	18	39	12
13.	Kurnool	0	0	48	22	22	43
	TOTAL	1297	1245	180	135	348	96

Supply chain and related transportation of essential commodities.**Manufacturing units engaged in production of essential commodities.**

The Seed and Fertilizer are essential commodities within the meaning of the Provisions of Essential Commodities ACT,1955. In this connection, the following guidelines are issued in support of continuation of production, processing and supply chain and transportation of seed, fertilizer and pesticides in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

A. Seeds :

- The harvesting season of seed crops will start from February to May months across the state.
- The harvesting, post harvesting, shipment of raw seeds and packing activities of all seed crops is in peak across the State.
- Presently, Hybrid Maize, Sorghum, Forage Crops, Pearl Millet, Cotton, Pulses, Rice, Groundnut, Vegetable Seeds etc. are in movement from production locations to processing plants across the State.
- Seed Storage, Testing, Processing, Grading and Packing, R&D etc., are now in peak stage.
- State seed is being procured during the months of March, April, May and June and this period is very critical to do all back- end process to ensure timely supply of seed during Kharif 2020 season.
- Raw seed of major seed crops is to be lifted for storage, testing, processing, grading and packing and processed seed is to be dispatched to stock points/godowns.
- Allied industry like packing material, seed treatment chemical suppliers and distributors and dealers are also very important in supplying the seeds to the State.
- All the Seed companies are directed to take all suitable measures and safe guards while handling the seed and see that seeds of all crops produced by the Seed companies are supplied to farmers during Kharif,2020. The companies are further informed that no hoarding of the Seeds shall happen in the State.
- All the processed and packed seed must be made available to the farmers well before on set of monsoon.

The companies are directed to follow the below mentioned essential safeguards.

- There shall be no congregation of more than 5 persons in any processing storage units while performing their duties. A social distance of at least 3 ft shall be maintained from person to person.
- Proper sanitation shall be ensured in all premises where labour/persons/staff are working in seed processing/storage units.
- Sufficient provision of masks/sanitizers/hand washers shall be made available
- All the seed companies shall make payment of wages /salaries fully to the workers/employees during the lock down period.

- The staff and workers working in the seed companies are permitted to move to the extent required for carrying out their job responsibilities. The identity cards issued by the company employing them can be used for ascertaining their identity.
- The vehicles carrying the seeds from farmers' fields to the processing plants and from one processing plant to other processing plant and to the distribution points(C&F agencies) or from distribution points to the retailers are permitted after due inspection based on the accompanying documents which clarify that they are nothing but seeds or the packing materials, leaflets, treating materials etc., required for packing the seeds.

B. Fertilizers and Pesticides:

- Keeping in view of Guidelines forwarded by the Govt. of India for ensuring continuous movement of fertilizers in the reference 2nd cited and fertilizer being an Essential Commodity, the following guidelines are issued in support of operations for timely warehousing and movements of fertilizer within the State.
- Fertilizer Manufactures/Companies are directed to take all suitable measures in placing the indents with the railways to ensure continuous supply of fertilizers required to the state for Kharif, 2020 and to monitor the supplies with reference to the indents placed on real time basis.
- The Companies were further directed that necessary measures shall be taken up through their dealer networks for timely availability of fertilizers to farmers and not to resort for hoarding/black marketing.
- There shall not be any restrictions on the movement of fertilizers & Pesticides from one place to other place within the state which depends on crop season and local demand.
- All the Stake Holders involved in the fertilizer rake operation Hamalis, Lorry crew etc.,
- labour hired for loading and unloading operations, etc. shall continue the operations following adequate safety measures to protect from Covid-19.
- Fertilizer & Pesticides dealer shops shall remain open and continue functioning. The buyers shall be advised to maintain 3 feet distance while purchasing the stocks. Dealers are requested to provide hand sanitizers and ensure hand sanitization by the buyers before and after Bio metric authentication.
- All goods vehicles carrying the Essential Commodities like fertilizers & Pesticides services shall be allowed to fly during the lock down period in the state.

C. Warehousing:

Warehousing Corporations are also part of storage and distribution of agriculture commodities such as seeds, fertilizers, manures, pesticides, agricultural implements and notified commodities. Hence, warehousing activities relating to seeds, fertilizers and Pesticides are permitted to continue in the state duly following the safety measures as detailed below during the lockdown period.

- All the Corporations shall make payment of wages /salaries fully to the workers / employees during the lock down period.
- There shall be no congregation of more than 5 persons in any units while performing their duties. A social distance of at least 3 ft shall be maintained from person to person.
- Proper sanitation shall be ensured in all premises where labour / persons / staff are working in Warehousing units.
- Sufficient provision of masks / sanitizers / hand washers shall be made available.

All the Seed, Fertilizer and Pesticide companies are directed to follow the abovementioned directions/guidelines without any deviation otherwise suitable action as per existing laws / Government orders will be taken.

All the above activities including movement of seed, fertilizer and pesticides needed to be carried out by the institutions/functionaries including dealers concerned are permitted to function during the lockdown period. In view of above, the Offices charged with Law and Order and Magisterial Duties are requested to implement the circular instructions for the welfare of farming community of the state.

ANNEXURE – II

(Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.342, Agri. & Coop. (Agri. II) Dept., dt.29.04.2020).
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Department of Horticulture

Action Plan being adopted by the Department of Horticulture during Lock Down period to safeguard the interest of Farmers.

1. Field functionaries of Horticulture Department are providing marketing linkages to farmers, buyers & marketing agency to procure Horticulture produce of farmers to get remunerative price;
2. NAFED has been requested to procure Mango, Sweet Orange and Banana & Tomato from registered FPOs in the State through Special Trains for marketing at distant markets;
3. FPOs are being registered on e-NAM Platform to assess the market for getting competitive price for their produce;
4. FPOs are being encouraged for procurement and marketing of Fruits and Vegetables in the markets and Rythu Bazars;
5. Fruits and Vegetables are being procured from farmers by FPOs and Fruits and Vegetables Kits are being prepared and marketed at door steps of consumers besides sale of fresh produce in Apartment Complexes, Gated Community directly to consumers through vending vans;
6. Online marketing platforms are also being explored for sale of produce such as Master Card Farmers Network, Kalgudi, NCDEX, etc.;
7. Day to day situation is being monitored and any hardships faced by the farmers are being redressed in coordination with Marketing and Transport Departments.

ANNEXURE – III

(Annexure to G.O.Rt.No.342, Agri. & Coop. (Agri. II) Dept., dt.29.04.2020).

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Department of Sericulture

Action Plan being adopted by the Dept. of Sericulture during Lock Down period to avoid loss to Sericulture farmers and Silk Reelers who are completely dependent on Sericulture activities in the State.

1. Mulberry cultivation and Silk Worm Rearing :

Mulberry is a perennial crop and leaf harvest is being done throughout the year. Accordingly, Silkworm rearings are being taken up by the Sericulture farmers throughout the year. However, these activities will become less in quantum during the summer months (May & June) and restore to normal soon after receipt of monsoon. In view of the above, the farmers are advised to take up cultural operations in their Mulberry gardens and Silkworm Rearings duly following social distance and proper disinfection measures.

2. Marketing of Reeling Cocoons:

Govt. Cocoon Markets are the only source of marketing for the Reeling Cocoons produced by the farmers where Silk Reelers buy the Cocoons. In light of Lock down guidelines, Regular and Notified Govt. Cocoon Markets are being functioning to limited extend with the help of Local District Administration duly maintaining social distance and following all precautionary disinfection measures.

3. Transportation of Cocoons & Raw Silk:

Officers working in the Dept. are coordinating with their respective District administrations and issuing permissions to Sericulture farmers and Silk Reelers to transport cocoons to their houses to GCMs and vice versa. Similarly, Silk Reelers are also being facilitated by the Department to transport Raw Silk produced at their units to Silk Exchanges.

4. Functioning of Silk Reeling Units:

Silk Reeling Units in both Govt. and Private sector are running with the permission of concerned Dist. administrations with limited workers i.e., 5 or 6 duly running alternate basins to maintain distance between one reeler and other. Maintenance of physical distance, disinfection, washing of hands with soap and usage of sanitizer is made mandatory in reeling units also.