



ABSTRACT

Horticulture – Announcement made by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture – Sanction for the Onion Development Programme at a cost of Rs. 5.00 crore – Orders – Issued.

Agriculture (H2) Department

G.O. (Ms.) No. 168

Dated: 03.08.2020

சார்வரி வருடம், ஆடி 19

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2051

Read:-

- (1) Announcement made by Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture on the floor of the Assembly on 24.03.2020.
- (2) From the Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, letter No.GOI/21649/2019, dated 27.05.2020.

ORDER:-

During the Demand for Agriculture session on 24.03.2020 the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture among others made the following announcement on the floor of Legislative Assembly that

“Onion Development Programme” to increase the area and production of Onion in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs. 5 crore.

2. In the letter second read above, the Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops has stated that the Major Onion producing districts in Tamil Nadu are Perambalur, Namakkal, Trichy, Dindigul, Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Coimbatore, Erode and Tenkasi. 75 percent of the total onions produced in Tamil Nadu are of 'aggregatum' type (small onion).

3. The total onion production during 2018-2019 was 3,46,562 MT from an area of 32,044 Ha. The district-wise area and production of Onion in the major districts of Tamil Nadu are as follows:

Sl. No	District	Area (Ha)	Production (MT)
1	Perambalur	7,047	70,470

(P.T.O)

2	Namakkal	3,451	46,606
3	Tiruchirappalli	3,913	35,217
4	Dindigul	2,350	31,802
5	Tiruppur	2,198	29,957
6	Thoothukudi	3,314	26,479
7	Coimbatore	1,272	22,905
8	Erode	1,372	20,820
9	Tenkasi	1,102	15,213
10	Salem	608	8,754
11	Theni	1,025	6,180
12	Karur	480	5,760
13	Dharmapuri	429	5,546
14	Virudhunagar	1,867	4,850
15	Kallakurichi	549	4,756
16	Madurai	389	3,604

Marketing of Onion:

From the marketing point of view, the major Onion markets are at Ottanchathiram, Koyambedu, and Coimbatore. There is price fluctuation in Small onion and Bellary onion with peak pricing during October to December every year. The price of the big onion goes to its peak in the month of October - December every year whereas farmers get minimum returns in the months of January - May.

Small onions are generally sown in April – May and October – November which comes for harvest in June-July and December –January respectively. Small onions fetch low price in the month of January- February. Onions generally fetch good market price in off seasons which is also due to its long shelf life. Hence, storage of onions is an essential factor for fixation of price.

(P.T.O)

Extending the shelf life of onions:

Most onion cultivars contain about 89% water. Hence, its perishable in nature. Onions stored at room temperature in a dry, cool, dark, well-ventilated location have a shelf life of three to four weeks. Keeping the actual needs of the farmers of onion growing Districts in focus, it has been proposed to extend the storage life of Onions. The farmers can thereby store the harvested onions during lean season and market it when there is demand. It has been proposed to provide assistance to the onion cultivating farmers to establish onion storage structures with 50% subsidy.

The Low cost onion storage structures have the following advantages:

- It is cost effective
- Shelf life is increased by 3-6 months
- Aids in price stabilization of onion

Each Onion storage structure will have a storage capacity of 25 MT. The subsidy for establishment of onion storage structures will be extended as Back ended assistance by transferring the subsidy amount directly to the beneficiary account. The total cost for establishment of a low cost onion storage structure is Rs.1,75,000 for a capacity of 25 MT. An amount of Rs.87,500 (50% subsidy) will be provided as financial assistance.

Under this programme, construction of on-farm low cost onion storage structures of 224 nos will be taken up at 50% subsidy at an outlay of **Rs.1.96 Crore**.

Onion area expansion:

It has been proposed to increase the area under Onion in Tamil Nadu by providing financial assistance to the farmers. The total cost for cultivation of Onion is Rs.50,000/Ha. It has been proposed to provide 40% assistance (Rs.20,000/Ha) for purchase of seeds, INM, IPM, intercultural operations, etc.

Under this programme, Onion area expansion will be carried out in an area of 1,520 Ha at 40% subsidy at an outlay of **Rs.3.04 Crore**.

Fund requirement:

The total fund requirement for "Onion Development Programme" is as follows:

S.No.	Component	Phy	Fin (in lakh)
1	Onion area expansion	1,520	304.00
2	Onion storage structures (Nos)	224	196.00
	Total		500.00

(P.T.O)

Source of fund:

It has been proposed to dovetail the funds to be allocated under National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP) and National Horticulture Mission under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH-NHM) for the year 2020-2021 for the implementation of "Onion development programme" as follows:

(In lakh)

Sl.No.	Source of fund	Onion Area		Low cost onion storage		Fin
		Phy (Ha)	Fin	Phy (nos) (25 MT/unit)	Fin	
1	NADP	1,500	300	-	-	300
2	NHM	20	4	224	196	200
	Total	1,520	304	224	196	500

4. The Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops has requested the Government to accept the proposal of Rs.5 crore and sanction may be given to utilize an amount of Rs.3 crore from the funds to be allocated under National Agriculture Development Programme 2020-2021 and Rs.2 Crore from the fund to be allocated under National Horticulture Mission under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH-NHM) 2020-2021 for implementing the programme.

5. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops decided to accord sanction for a sum of Rs.5.00 crore to utilize an amount of Rs.3 crore from the funds to be allocated under National Agriculture Development Programme 2020-2021 and Rs.2 Crore from the funds to be allocated under National Horticulture Mission under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH-NHM) 2020-2021 for implementing the Onion Development Programme and order accordingly.

6. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No.19544/2020, dated 02.07.2020.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION COMMISSIONER
AND PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To
The Director of Horticulture and Plantation Crops,
Chepauk, Chennai – 5 .

(P.T.O.)

The Principal Accountant General(G&SSA) (E&RSA)/
AAD/FSA,Cell/ Audit-I/II),

No. 361, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai -18.

The Residential Audit Officer, O/o. Principal Accountant General
(General and Social Sector Audit), Tamil Nadu Secretariat,
Chennai-9.

The Pay and Accounts Officer (East) Chennai-8.

Copy to :

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,
Chennai-9.

The Finance (Agriculture /BGI/BGII) Department, Chennai-9.

The Senior Private Secretary to Agricultural Production Commissioner
and Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department,
Chennai-9.

The Agriculture (OPIII) Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Assistant Programmer, Agriculture Department,
Chennai – 9.

Connected File No.8155/H2/2020.

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//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

P. Santhi
5.8.20

SECTION OFFICER

