



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

AGRI-ACT/71/2020

Karnataka Government Secretariat
M.S. Building,
Bengaluru-560001, Dated : 26.03.2020

ORDER

Sub: COVID-19-Epidemic Disease Act-1897-Lockdown orders-Issue of Guidelines for Seeds and Fertilizers under EC Act 1955.

- Ref :** 1) Government of Karnataka order No.HFW/54 /CGM /2020 dated 23-03-2020.
2) Government of India order No.40-03/2020-DM-I(A), Dated:24-03-2020

COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. In the Government order referred (1) above para 3 (b) reads "All industries and factories except those dealing with essential goods and services, food, medical equipment, drugs, fuel, agricultural inputs etc., shall remain closed" and 3 (h) reads "Plying of private vehicles shall be permitted only for procuring essential commodities and exceptions permitted in this order".

Further, in the Government of India order dated 24.03.2020 referred (2) above para 5 reads " Industrial establishments will remain closed. Exceptions: (a) Manufacturing units of essential commodities. (b) Production units, which require continuous process, after obtaining required permission from the State Government "and para 6 reads "All transport Services- air, rail, roadways - will remain suspended. Exceptions: (a) Transportation for essential goods only."

All steps are to be taken to check the spread of COVID-19 in the movement of Essential Commodities - seeds and fertilizers - under Section -2(A)of the Essential Commodities Act 1955.

Therefore, in view of the above the following guidelines are issued with regards to Seeds and Fertilizers, whether Inorganic, Organic or Mixed.

SEEDS

- 1) The harvesting season of seed crops starts from March to May months across all crops.

- 2) The harvesting, post harvesting, shipment of raw seeds and packing activities of all seed crops is in peak across production States.
- 3) The seed production is done in Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and Seed production is dependent on Movement of Seeds for further handling.
- 4) The Seed Storage, Testing, Processing, Grading and Packing, R and D etc., facilities are now in full swing and going on in processing units located in different parts of the State.
- 5) Seed movement commences from last week of March to the Pre-monsoon sowings districts like Chamarajnagar, Mysore, Hassan, Mandya, Tumkuru, Chikmagalur and Kodagu.
- 6) The allied industries like packing material, seed treatment chemical suppliers and distributors and dealers are also very important in supplying the seeds.
- 7) All the Seed companies are directed to take all suitable measures and safe guards and see that seeds of all crops handled by the Seed companies are supplied to farmers during the coming Kharif Season 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 the onset of monsoon. The companies are directed to follow the below mentioned essential safeguards-
 - a) There shall be no congregation of more than 5 persons in any processing / storage units. While performing their duties, each person shall maintain a social distance of at least 4 feet from the nearest person.
 - b) Proper sanitation shall be ensured in all premises where labour/persons/staff are working in Seed processing /Storage units.
 - c) Sufficient provision of masks/sanitizers/hand washing soaps and water shall be made available for all persons.



- d) All the Seed companies shall make payment of wages/salaries fully to the workers /employees during the lock down period.
- e) 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.
- f) The vehicles carrying the seeds from the farmer's fields to the processing plants, from one processing plant to other processing plant, to the distributing points (C and 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 seeds.
- g) All the seed companies are directed to follow the above mentioned directions/guidelines without any deviations. Suitable action as per existing seed laws / Government orders will be taken in case of all transgressions.
- h) All the above activities are permitted and Seed dealers shall continue functioning during the lock down period and they should ensure that minimum isolation distance between individual customer is maintained while distribution of seeds.

FERTILIZERS

- 1) All the stakeholders involved in the Fertilizer rake operations, ie., Hamali unions, Lorry transport unions, or the labour hired for loading unloading operations, Handling and Transporting agents, Local Contractors etc., shall continue the operations following adequate safety measures to protect from COVID-19.
- 2) All the Fertilizer dealer shops shall remain open. The buyers shall be advised to maintain a distance of at least 4 feet from the nearest person while purchasing the stocks.
- 3) The Dealers should provide masks/hand sanitizers/hand washing soaps and water and ensure complete sanitization of the buyers.



and hoarding of fertilizers should be done anywhere anytime in the State.



(RAJENDER KUMAR KATARIA)

Secretary to Government
Agriculture department

To:

- 1) The commissioner Agriculture Department, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru.
- 2) All District Deputy Commissioners
- 3) All District Joint Directors of Agriculture Department. (Through Agriculture Commissioner)

Copy for information:

- 1) Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.
- 2) Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka.