

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH.
ABSTRACT

Agriculture & Cooperation Department- Guidelines on Agriculture Activities during the COVID-19 curfew period from 05.05.2021 for a period of two weeks (05.05.2021 to 18.05.2021)- Orders- Issued.

AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (AGRI.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 268

Dated: 08-05-2021.
Read the following:

1. GORT No. 368 Dt. 16.05.2020 of the Agriculture & Cooperation (Agri.IV) Department. AP.
2. GORT No.192 Dt. 04.05.2021 of the Health, Medical And Family Welfare (B2) Department.
3. From the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P. Guntur vide e-file No. [AGC02-24024/22/2021-PLG SEC-AGRHOD](#).

ORDER:

In the backdrop of Imposing of Curfew in the State of Andhra Pradesh to contain the spread of Covid-19 for a period of two weeks i.e., from 5th May to 18th May 2021 vide GORT No.192, Dt 04.05.2021 of the Health, Medical And Family Welfare (B2) Department, in the reference 2nd read above, and in the circumstances reported by the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, A.P. Guntur in the reference 3rd read above, Government, after careful examination of the matter, hereby issue the following general guidelines on All agricultural operations including procurement of agricultural produce for a period of two weeks (05.05.2021 to 18.05.2021).

A. General guidelines:

- i. The COVID-19 protocol of social distancing, sanitization and wearing double masks should be followed by all involved in the agriculture operations.
- ii. Ensure unrestricted pre-sowing activities, movement of agricultural labourers, transport and other machineries. The passes issued by the local Agricultural authorities /Horticulture (MAO/HO) should be accepted by the police. **The draft pass is enclosed in the Annexure to this order.**

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- iii. Farmers and individuals involved in production of food grains / essential commodities viz., Seeds, Fertilizers & Pesticides will be allowed to take up their activities by maintaining social distancing norms.
- iv. There shall be free movement of agriculture/horticulture produce, manufacturing, distribution and retail of agriculture/horticulture inputs, sale of various agriculture machinery and equipment etc., across the state without any restrictions which depends on crop season and local demand.
- v. All shops for sale / repair of agriculture machinery and equipment as well as sale of essential commodities viz., seed, Fertilizers and pesticides and other agri. inputs will be kept open from 7.00 AM to 6.00 PM.
- vi. Agriculture operations like Sowing of Green manure crops, Summer pulses and early sowing Kharif Paddy operations etc., are the labour intensive activities carried out in May month and the farmers/labour shall be exempted from curfew.
- vii. Any kind of trainings in the districts shall be conducted on Virtual mode instead of physical trainings.

B. Specific guidelines:

1. Agriculture Department

(a). Subsidy seed distribution operations:

- i. The subsidy seed distribution programme for Kharif, 2021 will commence from 17th May 2021 in the State.
- ii. As Groundnut Seed Procurement for subsidy programme Kharif, 2021 started at 4 Rayalaseema districts and procured 91% of target till date, the further procurement of Unprocessed seed, processing of entire quantity, packing, certification, storage done at RBK level. Hence, such operations shall be exempted from Curfew.
- iii. Registration of farmers for subsidy seed distribution of Kharif, 2021 shall be allowed at RBKs from 10th May 2021 and to exempt the farmer identification by utilizing Bio Metric devices & adopt farmer identification through OTP sent to the farmer mobiles.

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- iv. The harvesting, post harvesting, shipment of raw seeds and packing activities of all seed crops is in peak across the State.
- v. Presently, Hybrid Maize, Jowar, Bajra, Cotton, Paddy, Groundnut etc. are in movement from production locations to processing plants across the State.
- vi. Seed Storage, Testing, Processing, Grading and Packing, R&D etc., are now in full swing and going on across the State. Processed seed is to be dispatched to stock points/godowns.
- vii. State seed requirement is to be procured during the months of May and June and this period is very critical to do all back-end process to ensure timely supply of seed during Kharif, 2021 season.
- viii. Allied industry like packing material, seed treatment chemical suppliers and distributors and dealers are also very important in supplying the seeds to the State.
- ix. 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, 2021. 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.
- x. The companies are directed to follow the below mentioned essential safeguards.
- xi. 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.
- xii. Proper sanitation shall be ensured in all premises where labour/persons/staff are working in seed processing/storage units.
- xiii. Sufficient provision of masks/sanitizers/hand washers shall be made available.
- xiv. 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.

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- xv. 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). Integrated Agri Labs construction:

- i. The construction works of Integrated Agri labs across the state are verge of its completion and the Government planned their inauguration in Kharif, 2021.
- ii. Considering the urgency of the Labs opening by the Government, the district JDAs are instructed to issue permits for Labour who are working for the completion of the Agri lab construction, finishing, painting and other works in coordination with the District Police Housing staff by duly following the covid norms.
- iii. Integrated Agri Labs to communicate the analysis reports at the earliest without any delay in coordination with the District administration and Nodal Agencies.

(c). Prepositioning of Inputs at RBKs:

- i. Instructions were issued that in every RBK that at least 5 metric tons of fertilizers should be pre-positioned for ongoing Kharif, 2021 by the nodal agencies i.e., AP MARKFED and AP AGROS at RBK Hubs/PACS & godowns in co-ordination with department officials.
- ii. The Nodal agencies has to make adequate logistic arrangements for movement of vehicles to RBKs for Pre-positioning of Seeds and Pesticides as planned to complete by 10th May, 2021 by issuing **PASS** to the concerned officers/agencies.
- iii. The Nodal agencies and supplying firms has to make arrangements for unloading of rakes by due co-ordination with the district administration i.e., JDAs & JC (RB&R). The movement from railways and shipways till the destination points shall be free atleast 8 hours from the time of receipt of rakes.

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- iv. The Nodal agencies in co-ordination with Dept. officials has to make arrangements for pre-testing of stocks for immediate dispatch to RBKs.
- v. Arrangements has to be made without break for pre-positioning of 8 Lakh MTs of Fertilizer stocks as planned earlier to be completed by 30th May at RBK, Mandal & Sub-division level and at district level storage spaces (Markfed godowns/ Whole Sale / Retail Dealers/ Manufacturers Godowns) by 15th June , 2021.
- vi. 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, 2021 and to monitor the supplies with reference to indents placed on real time basis.
- vii. 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.
- viii. All the Stake Holders involved in the fertilizer rake operation Hamalies, Lorry crew, labor hired for loading and unloading operations, etc. shall continue the operations.
- ix. Dealers are requested to provide hand sanitizers and ensure hand sanitization by the buyers before and after Bio metric authentication.
- x. All goods vehicles carrying the Essential Commodities like fertilizers & Pesticides services shall be allowed to fly during the lock down period in the state.

(d).Dr.YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM KISAN:

4. The Dept. of Agriculture has initiated the release of First installment of YSR Rythu Bharosa–PM KISAN amount of Rs 3030 Cr on 13th May, 2021.
5. VAAs/VHAs/VSAs may be allowed to display the beneficiaries lists in all RBKs for Social audit.

(e). Dr.YSR Free Crop Insurance:

- i. Release of YSR Free Crop Insurance Claim of Kharif -2020 with an amount of Rs 2589.60 Cr is planned on 25th May, 2021.
- ii. VAAs/VHAs/VSAs may be allowed for Biometric authentication of eligible farmers at RBKs.

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- iii. The district JDAs shall issue **PASS** to the concerned MAOs/ADAs to monitor the process of implementation of Dr.YSR Free Crop Insurance in their jurisdiction.

(f). Farm Mechanization operations:

- i. Permission to allow the Harvesting machinery involved in Agricultural Operations for smooth running of the Harvesting.
- ii. Free movement may be permitted for Agricultural Machinery throughout the State (Inter district and intra district movement).
- iii. To exempt movement of combine harvesters across districts.
- iv. To open farm machinery shops for sale of agricultural machinery (including tractors, spare parts, Agricultural implements) duly following Covid protocol i.e., from 07.00 AM to 06.00 PM.
- v. Exempt movement of service personnel across districts with permission letter from JDA of the district. The person requiring permission for movement has to submit letter to district JDA and in turn district JDA with the consent of Police of the district may grant permission.
- vi. To permit to exempt agricultural machinery manufacturing units in the State who are registered with Commissioner of Agriculture.

(g). e-crop booking:

- i. e-crop booking shall be allowed for booking of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries as this is the single source of truth for extending YSR RB, YSR Free Crop Insurance, Input subsidy and procurement operations.
- ii. VAAs/VHAs/VSAs shall obtain **PASS** from higher authority for registering of farmers in e-Crop Rabi 2020-21 and early Kharif, 2021.

2. Marketing Department

(a). Procurement operations for Rabi 2020-21:

- i. Village Agriculture Assistants to register all the farmers who are enrolled in e Panta and willing to sell their produce on MSP at their respective Procurement Center at Rythu Bharosa Kendram. They should also liaise with and assist the procuring agencies doing MSP/ MIS Operations at the RBK level.
- ii. The MSP/ MIS Operations should be at RBK level to facilitate the farmers to sell their produce within the village itself.

- iii. Most of Rabi crops are harvested except Paddy (68% harvested), Maize (64%), Jowar (88%), Groundnut (90%), Ragi (91%) & Sesamum (70%).
- iv. Market arrivals of Agriculture produce like Paddy, Maize, Jowar, & Bengal gram should thoroughly be monitored.
- v. Procurement operations has to be carried out immediately after harvest of agricultural commodities like Paddy, Maize, Bengalgram, Jowar etc., by coordinating with Procurement agencies.
- vii. Facilitate the transport of harvested produce to procurement centers by providing permits to the farmers wherever necessary by the District Administration.
- viii. The Village Agriculture Assistants/ Village Horticulture Assistants/Village Sericulture Assistants has to be instructed to enable Rabi harvesting and procurement operations during the period of COVID-19 Curfew.
- ix. Procurement of Kharif 2020 crops also shall be continued following covid protocol.
- x. As per the 3 (i) of the Go Rt.No.192, Dt:24.11.2020,All agricultural operations including procurement of agricultural produce shall be allowed duly following the below covid protocol.
 - a. The physical distancing of at least 6 feet to be followed as far as feasible.
 - b. Use of face covers/masks (preferably double Masks) to be made mandatory.
 - c. Provisioning of hand sanitizers at the Procurement centres / Market yards for sanitizing
 - d. Thermal screening provisions, to the extent feasible, for monitoring of body temperature of workers and farmers.
 - e. Respiratory etiquettes to be strictly followed. This involves the strict practice of covering one's mouth and nose while coughing/sneezing with a tissue /handkerchief / flexed elbow and disposing of used tissues properly.
 - f. Self-monitoring of health by all and reporting any illness at the earliest to state and district helpline.
 - g. Spitting shall be strictly prohibited.
 - h. Suitable arrangements for contact-less procurement operations, wherever applicable.
 - i. Installation & use of the AarogyaSethu App shall be advised to all.

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- j. There shall not be any restrictions on the movement of the harvested Agriculture produce from villages to the procurement centers /AMC's and from procurement centers /AMC's to the Warehouses within the State.
- k. All the Stake Holders involved in the MSP/ MIS Operations, AMC /Procurement Center Staff, Hamalies, Lorry crew, labour hired for loading and unloading operations, etc. shall continue the operations following adequate safety measures to protect from Covid-19.
- l. The District administration shall issue passes/permits for all the persons involved in MSP/ MIS Operations at the AMC /Procurement centers .
- m. All goods vehicles carrying the Essential Commodities like food grains shall be allowed to fly during the Curfew period in the state.
- n. Warehousing Corporations are also part of the storage and disposal of agriculture commodities procured Hence, warehousing activities relating to unloading and loading of the Agricultural commodities are permitted o continue in the state duly following the safety measures during the Curfew period.
- o. 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.
- p. The District administration shall monitor the transportation arrangements from villages to procurement centers/AMC's and from the Centers/AMC's to the Warehouses.
- q. The District administration shall issue passes/permits for all the goods vehicles carrying the Essential Commodities like food grains.
- r. The District administration shall monitor the unloading and loading operations at the procurement centers and warehouses and any to be sorted.

(b). Functional Market Yards:

The Secretaries shall be review the over crowded in the functional Market Yards and scheduling the arrivals of agricultural commodities to reduce the over crowded to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

- a. The Secretaries shall ensure the
 - 1. Social Distance
 - 2. Mask
 - 3. Sanitization

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- b. Hand sanitizers / thermal scanners shall be provided at the entrance of the gates and ensure that, the each and every Farmers and Market Yard users shall be scanned.
- c. Physical /social distancing of atleast 6 feet shall be followed duly marking in the functional markets and Rythu Bazars to control the market users.
- d. The Secretaries of Functional Market yards ensure that Commission Agents/ Traders supply Hand sanitizers, napkins, Masks to their weighmen, Hamalies and farmers who come to their respective shops.
- e. Every two or three days sanitize the premises of office / functional market yards / Rythu bazars
- f. Frequently announce through public address system in using the masks/ maintenance of social distance / hand sanitization and precautionary measures in the functional market yards and rythu bazaars.

(c). RYTHU BAZARS:

- a. Display of sign boards at the entrance of each Rythu Bazar, “No-Mask” “No-Entry”.
- b. Physical distancing shall be maintained at least 4 to 6 feet between the stake holders, accordingly markings shall be done in the Rythu Bazars.
- c. Hand sanitizers / thermal scanners shall be provided at the entrance of the gates and ensure that, the each and every consumer shall be scanned.
- d. Ensure that No person shall be allowed in to the Rythu Bazar without wearing Mask

DECENTRALIZED / MOBILE RYTHU BAZARS:

- e. Decentralized Rythu Bazars shall be operated in consultation with the District Administration / Municipal authorities, in order to safe guard the health of the Public.
- f. Decentralized Rythu Bazars can be established in any of the public open places i.e. Market Yards / Schools / Play grounds / Municipal Grounds / any open space as suggested by the District Administration / Municipal Authorities / Departmental officials as was done during the 1st phase of Covid-19.

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- g. Mobile Rythu Bazars can be operated in consultation with the local bodies, If necessary.
- h. Mobile Rythu Bazars shall be operated preferably in the Containment Zones / Red Zones, if any, declared by the District Administration / Municipal authorities.
- i. The Estate Officer across the state are instructed to collect / gather the indent from the Community people / President / Secretary of the residential associations who are residing in the Containment zones as well as other prominent places by dividing in to the zones.
- j. The expenditure with regard to running the Mobile Rythu Bazars shall be met from the revolving fund available with the concerned ADM duly maintaining proper accounts.
- k. Follow the timings of the District Administration, if, there is any bar / timings prescribed by the district administration for running of RBZ.
- l. Any symptoms of cold /cough / fever, the person should immediately intimate the higher authorities and inform the Covid-19 cell for testing.
- m. The movement of agricultural and horticultural produce from the farms/villages to market yards or mandies both within the state and to other states is permissible during curfew hours also.
- n. The traders of agriculture and horticulture produce shall be exempt from curfew restrictions on production of passes issued by Marketing or Horticulture departments.

3.(a).Horticulture Department

- 1. Movement/transportation of Silk worm eggs, Chawkie silk worms, silk cocoons and raw silk is to be allowed within and from outside the state.
- 2. Functioning of Government Cocoon Markets **(GCMs)** and Silk Reeling Units is to be allowed.
- 3. To permit the Horticulture produce processing units to operate to arrange transportation of labourers and packing material for their factories.
- 4. To permit transportation of Horticulture plant material from nurseries to farmers fields

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3.(b). Oil Palm

(a).Transportation of Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches from farms to processing plants may be exempted from the Covid curfew restrictions.

(b).Similarly the workers and employees of oil palm processing factories be exempted from curfew restrictions.

4. Animal Husbandry Department

1. All the veterinary institutions / Animal Disease diagnostic labs / offices will remain functional and extend their services as essential services for treatment of ailing animals. The staff working in these institutions shall be permitted to attend their duties.
2. Transportation of Animal feed / fodder seed shall be allowed without restricting road / rail transport.
3. Transportation of chicken / eggs/ chicks / meat and meat products / live animals shall be allowed without restricting road / rail transport.
4. Movement of Labour / Skilled / Unskilled workers of Livestock and Poultry farms and Animal feed manufacturing units shall be allowed without restrictions.

5. Fisheries Department

(a). All activities / operations pertaining to aquaculture such as seed production operations in fish seed farms and shrimp hatcheries , production of feed, fish / shrimp production, transportation of aqua seed, feed and produce, aqua processing and other allied units shall be permitted without any hindrance.

(b). More specially, movement of all the persons / vehicles engaged in aquaculture operations shall be allowed without any hindrance.

6. Dairy Development

1. All milk vans with procured milk can from villages shall be permitted at all times.
2. Milk supply vehicles carrying packed milk for Anganwadis shall be allowed to transport any time of the day both within the state and across state borders.
3. Bulk milk tankers shall be allowed free movement with in the state and across the state.

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4. Vehicles carrying animal feed shall be allowed to move within state and across the border.
5. Vehicles carrying AMCU/BMCU equipments and construction materials for BMCUs/AMCUs shall also be allowed.

2. In the circumstances stated above, the Offices charged with Law and Order and Magisterial Duties are requested to implement the instructions for the welfare of farming community of the state.

3. The authorities mentioned in the address entries shall take further necessary action, accordingly.

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

POONAM MALAKONDAIAH
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Director General of Police, A.P.

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

The Commissioner & Director of Agricultural Marketing, A.P. Guntur.

The Commissioner of Sericulture, A.P. Guntur.

The Commissioner of Horticulture, A.P. Guntur.

The Comm. for Cooperation & Registrar of Cooperative Societies, A.P.,Guntur.

The VC& MD., APSSDCL, Vijayawada.

The Registrar, ANGRAU, Lam, Guntur

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry, A.P.

The Commissioner of Fisheries, A.P.

The M.D. A.P. Dairy Development cooperative federation Ltd. (APDDCF)

All Collectors and District Magistrates of the State.

All Superintendents /Commissioners of Police in the State.

Copy to:

P.S to Add. Secy. to CM.

P.S to Minister (Agri.)

PS to Spl.Chief Secy. to Govt., Agriculture & Cooperation Department.

PS to Spl.Chief Secretary to Government, (FAC), AHDD&F Dept.

P.S to Prl., Secretary to Government (Marketing & Cooperation)

SF/SC.

// FORWARDED : :BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE

(to G.O. Rt No.268, Agriculture & Cooperation (Agri.IV) Department, Dated: 08.05.2021

PASS for Essential Services & Agriculture and Allied operations:

1. **Name of the farmer/labour/technician:**
2. **Movement from to**
3. **Vehicle No.**
4. **MobileNo.**
5. **Aadhar No. (Optional)**
6. **Agricultural Operations / Services: Enclosed herewith.**

MAO/ADA/DDA/JDA
Mandal/Division/District & Stamp

Signature of the Farmer/ labour/technician

Agricultural Operations / Services

- i. Procurement centers for sale of Agriculture/ Horticulture produce.
- ii. Purchase of Seeds/ Fertilizers / Pesticides at dealer premises
- iii. For purchase of Farm implements, Farm machinery, repairs, maintenance of farm machinery, PP sprayers & tools.
- iv. Land preparations/ Nursery preparation/ Nursery management/Sowing & Transplantations/ Weeding/intercultural operations
- v. Application of Fertilizers/ FYM/ PP Sprayings
- vi. Irrigation operations like sprinkler, drip & furrow
- vii. Visit to banks for credits/ loaning/ repayments.
- viii. Rodent management
- ix. Harvesting/ Threshing / Produce Transport of Agricultural/ Horticultural for marketing & storage

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- x. Purchase of petrol /diesel for tractors / sprayers
- xi. Seed processing/ movement/ storage
- xii. e-Crop booking
- xiii. Dr.YSR Rythu Bharosa-PM KISAN
- xiv. Dr.YSR Free Crop Insurance
- xv. Integrated Agri Labs construction.