## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA FOOD SUPPLIES & CONSUMER WELFARE DEPARTMENT

/FS&CW., Bhubaneswar Dated 10 03 2023. FSCW-PL-PRC-0003-2017

From

Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, IAS,

Principal Secretary to Government.

To

The Collectors

Balasore/ Bargarh/ Balangir/ Boudh/ Cuttack/ Jajpur/ Jharsuguda/ Kalahandi/ Khurdha/ Koraput/ Mayurbhanj/ Nabarangpur/ Nuapada/ Puri/ Rayagada/ Sambalpur and Subarnapur.

Sub: Preparatory activities for procurement of paddy (Rabi Crop) in the current KMS 2022-23.

Madam/ Sir,

Procurement of paddy (Rabi Crop) will commence from May 1st in our State. It is required to ensure that the upcoming Rabi procurement operations are carried out smoothly and genuine farmers are able to sell their paddy in a hassle-free manner at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

While procurement operations are to be carried out as per the Food and Procurement Policy for KMS 2022-23 and Operational Guidelines issued by Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation (OSCSC), I would draw your kind attention to the following specific issues which need to be addressed prior to the commencement of actual procurement operations for Rabi season.

#### Period

 Paddy (Rabi Crop) will be procured in the period between 1.5.2023 to 30.6.2023. The meeting of District Level Procurement Committee (DLPC) may be convened much prior to commencement of procurement, preferably by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, 2023 to decide on the starting day of procurement in your district.

# Identification of societies for undertaking procurement

Suitable PACS/ LAMPCS/ WSHG/ Pani Panchayat should nominated for participation in procurement operations after assessing their available manpower, infrastructure, grading equipment, track record, financial capability and management, location, storage capacity and past performance. Where, in case, a procuring society/ group has committed lapses in current Kharif procurement season in ensuring smooth procurement to the satisfaction of farmers, it may be replaced with a suitable society/ group with adequate infrastructure facilities.

# Registration Work

- Prior registration of farmers is mandatory for procurement. The task of preparing Master Farmer List may be completed much before commencement of procurement of Rabi crop. The modalities for online registration of farmers have already been issued by the Department vide letter No.3521 dated 22.02.2023. The process of farmer registration has started from 1.3.2023. Master trainers from all the districts have been trained on 24.2.2023 on modalities of Rabi registration. Training of procurement related officials must have been completed by now with the help of these Master Trainers.
- Paddy Purchase Centers should be kept in readiness from May 1st by societies/ groups engaged in Rabi procurement.

# Assistance by Revenue / Lift Irrigation/ Agricultural officials

 Tehsildars/Lift Irrigation/Agricultural officials may be asked to render assistance for verification of land details/ claims regarding irrigation/ and the extent of land irrigated.

#### **IEC Activities**

· IEC activities like sensitizing farmers regarding procurement centers, quality norms, weighment, MSP payment should be undertaken through publicity in Odia language. RMCs shall undertake such publicity in their jurisdiction.

## Infrastructure in PPCs

· Minimum infrastructure facilities should be put in place by the procuring societies/ groups.

## Ensuring preparedness of Millers

- · Mill-wise analysis should be carried out regarding paddy given during Kharif season for custom milling, rice received back from the millers and the balance paddy available with them.
- · It must be ensured that millers are ready in your respective district before start of procurement of Rabi crops.
- It is imperative for high Rabi procuring districts that custom millers with poor rice delivery improve their performance (Kharif Crop) so that they can make complete delivery by 30.4.2023. Unless they do

so immediately, your district runs the risk of falling short of adequate number of eligible custom millers.

# Safe storage of paddy

 Paddy is very much vulnerable to deterioration in quality due to moisture. Custom millers receiving paddy during Rabi should ensure that the same is stored properly under protective cover/ covered storage so that there is no damage to paddy due to the rains.

## Engagement of outside millers

· Wherever milling capacity is inadequate in the district, millers from outside districts will be deputed to the deficit districts. In no case one miller will be allowed to participate in more than two districts including his own. In this regard, prior approval of OSCSC will be obtained for cross-district milling. MD, OSCSC needs to be informed of the requirement for outside district millers well in advance with proper justification.

#### Delivery of CMR

 Delivery of rice to FCI and OSCSC should be monitored on a regular basis by District Collectors and any problems arising in the field should be addressed immediately through the district level/ sub divisional level squad. Such review needs to be made on a daily basis by Chief CSOs/ CSO-cum DMs.

#### Tagging of Millers to PPCs

 Custom millers should be tagged to specified Paddy Purchase Centers (PPCs)/ market yards on least cost principle and they should be given the task of lifting paddy daily from the procurement centers. No paddy which is procured on a day should remain unlifted at the end of the day. This will require regular coordination and, hence, there is a need for designating nodal officers for all procurement centers in the districts.

## Protection of paddy from rains

- It should be ensured that required number of polythene/ tarpaulin/ covered storage facilities are available at PPCs/ market yards (where procurement will be carried out) to meet the monsoon challenges.
- Monsoon usually arrives in our State during mid-June. Hence, all steps should be taken to complete procurement of paddy (Rabi Crop) before the onset of monsoon.

Supervision

 During the peak procurement period, the entire district machinery should be involved in supervision and monitoring of procurement operations, especially in big procuring districts.

 Collector shall assign duties to senior functionaries of the district like ADM/ PD, DRDA/ PA, ITDA/ Sub-Collectors/ Tehsildars/ Deputy Director, Agriculture/ Deputy Director, Horticulture/ DRCS/ ARCSs/ District Agriculture Officers and other officials to supervise paddy procurement operations. They can be assigned Blocks/ Subdivisions or even specific purchase centers.

#### Control Room

 To facilitate the coordination and sorting out problems on a daily basis, a control room should be operationalized at the district level.

Yours\faithfully,

It is, therefore, requested to take all necessary steps, monitor and supervise the ensuing Rabi procurement operations personally to ensure that there is no distress sale of paddy in the district.

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