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NOTIFICATION

No. B.14015/8/2024-AGR, the 28th October, 2024: In the interest of public service, the competent authority is pleased to notify **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Societies in the sale of notified crops viz. Ginger, Turmeric and Chilli** under Agricultural Market Assurance Scheme in Mizoram with immediate effect and until further orders.

Objective

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the roles and responsibilities of Societies for the aggregation, transportation, and sale of the notified crops viz. Ginger, Turmeric and Chilli in Mizoram. It aims to ensure an efficient, transparent, and streamlined process.

1. Procedure for Primary Society

1.1. Formation and Responsibilities

- **Formation:**
Each village must establish a Society, which will be responsible for the aggregation and sale of crops.
- The society must maintain a clear and transparent structure, with elected representatives and proper organizational chart.
- **Collection and Aggregation:**
Societies will set up Primary Collection Centres (PCCs) in each village for the aggregation of crops brought by the farmers.

1.2. Crops Aggregation Process

- **Crop Receipt and Quality Assessment:**
The Primary Society will perform quality checks for each batch of crops received from the farmers and document the results.
- **Keeping of Records:**
After accepting the crop, the Society keep record indicating the weight, quality, and date of receipt of each individual farmer.

- **Storage at PCC:**

The Primary Society will ensure safe and secure storage of the crops at the PCC until transportation to the Secondary Collection Centre (SCC).

1.3. Transportation to Secondary Collection Centre (SCC)

- **Arranging Transportation:**

Once a sufficient quantity of crops is aggregated, the Primary Society will arrange for transportation to the SCC.

- **Cost of Transportation and Unloading:**

The cost of transportation from the PCC to the SCC and unloading will be borne by the Society. This cost will be recovered through service charges negotiated with the farmers or buyers

1.4. Negotiation and Sale

- **Service Charge Negotiation:**

The Society will negotiate service charges with either the farmers or the buyers, depending on the agreement. This revenue will cover transportation, labour and administrative costs.

- **Sale of Aggregated Crops:**

The Society will participate in the sale of crops at the Tender Centre or through other channels, if they choose to, at the notified rates. (Support price cannot be availed from sales from any other channels other than Secondary Collection Centre.)

1.5. Record Keeping and Reporting

- **Documentation:**

The Society must maintain detailed records of all crops received, quality checks, transportation costs, and service charges.

- **Reporting to Government Authorities:**

Regular reports of crop aggregation, sales, and financial transactions should be submitted to the District Agricultural Marketing Committee.

1.6. Disbursement of Payments to Farmers:

- Upon receiving payment from buyers, the society will disburse payments to individual farmers based on the crop quantity and quality delivered.
- Ensure that payments are made in a timely manner and that any discrepancies are promptly addressed.

2. Revenue Sources for the Primary Society

- **Service Charge on Farmers:**

Primary Societies may charge farmers a nominal service fee for the aggregation and transportation services.

- **Service Charge on Buyers:**

Primary Societies may also charge buyers for facilitating the aggregation and sale of the crops.

3. Procedure for Claiming Price Support:

- If the notified rate cannot be achieved during an auction, the Primary Society can claim price support from the government. The SCC must provide:
 - Proof that the crop was sold below the notified rate.

- Supporting documents, including:
 - Sales receipts
 - Auction records
 - Payment proof
 - Quantity verification records

3.1. Submission of Claim:

- These documents will be submitted to the DAMC for processing the price support claim.

4. Compliance and Review

- **Adherence to Market Prices:**

The society must ensure that crops are sold at the notified rates as set by the government for ginger, turmeric, and chilli.

- **Annual Review:**

This SOP will be reviewed annually by the government authorities to ensure it remains relevant and efficient for all stakeholders involved.

5. Penalties for Non-Compliance

- **Farmers:**

Farmers who do not follow the agreed quality standards or timelines may face penalties, including delayed payments or exclusion from future sales.

- **Society:**

Societies found in violation of this SOP (e.g., improper record keeping or overcharging) may face suspension or other disciplinary actions as decided by District Agricultural Marketing Committee.

6. Grievance Redressal

- **Farmers:**

Farmers may raise concerns with the Primary Society or escalate the issue to the District Agricultural Marketing Committee if the matter is not resolved.

- **Society:**

Societies can seek guidance from the District Agricultural Marketing Committee on issues related to operational procedures, pricing disputes, or service charge negotiations.

This SOP is designed to streamline the sale of notified crops in Mizoram, ensuring efficiency, fairness, and transparency for both farmers and societies.

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