



## ABSTRACT

Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business – Corona (COVID-19) outbreak – Promotion of purchase of Agricultural produce from the farmers by traders - Suspension of market fee collection for all notified agricultural crops during the lockdown period – Orders issued.

Agriculture (AM.3) Department

G.O.(Ms)No.82

Dated: 08.04.2020

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2051  
பங்குனித் திங்கள் 26-ஆம் நாள்

Read:

From the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, Letter No.MCS1/26346/2016, dated 04.04.2020

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### **ORDER:**

The Government has announced a lockdown from 25.03.2020 to 14.04.2020 to arrest the spread of COVID-19 in the State.

2. Following this, the the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business in his letter read above has stated that the arrival of agricultural produce to the Regulated Markets is in higher volume and reduction of trading activities in the Regulated Markets due to COVID-19 effect may force the farmers to go for distress sale.

3. The Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business has also stated that due to uncertainty that is prevailing in the movement of agricultural produce, the volume of arrival as well as the purchase is lower as compared to the previous years. With an intention to save the farmers from this crisis, exemption has also been given for the easy movement of agricultural produce within the State. In spite of it, the farmers are hesitant to bring their produce to Regulated Markets. Many processing units in the State are also non-functional due to COVID-19 related lockdown. Hence, the traders are also reluctant to buy the produce from the Regulated Markets. To mitigate this, traders have to be motivated by way of economic compensation. As per the procedure in vogue, a buyer has to pay 1% of the value of produce purchased as "market fee" to the Market Committees. During the lockdown period, the collection of market fee may be suspended as practiced for Price Support Scheme for procurement of Pulses and Copra. Long since, the Market Committees are not collecting fee for the Public Distribution System (PDS) procurement by Food Corporation of India (FCI) or Tamil Nadu Civil Supply Corporation being a welfare programme.

[p.t.o]

4. The Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business has further stated that the Government has taken many initiatives to support the public through hygiene as well as economic support. As a one such initiative, the waiver of godown rent for 30 days instead of 15 days has been announced. Similarly, the traders may also be supported by suspension of market fee collection during the lockdown period. This will facilitate the wholesale buyers to purchase higher volumes in the Regulated Markets so that the supply chain of processing industries will be sustained.

5. In view of the above reasons, the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business has requested the Government to issue necessary orders for the suspension of collection of market fee for all notified crops during the lockdown period due to the Corona (COVID-19) outbreak to promote the purchase of Agricultural produce from the farmers by traders.

6. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business and decided to accept the same. Accordingly, the Government direct that the market fee collection for all notified crops be suspended temporarily upto 30.04.2020 due to lockdown period to contain Corona (COVID-19) outbreak. Also, the decision to allow farmers to keep their Farm Produce in the godowns for 30 days free of cost, instead of 15 day is ratified.

7. The Government also direct the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business that necessary instructions be issued to the Market Committees in this regard.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI  
Agricultural Production Commissioner  
and Principal Secretary to Government

**To**

The Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business, Chennai-32.  
The Chief Executive Officer,

Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board, Chennai-32

All the District Collectors.

All Special Officers / Secretaries of Market Committees

Thro' the Commissioner of Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business,  
Chennai-32

**Copy to:-**

The Chief Secretary to Government, Chennai-9

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Finance Department, Chennai-9.

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protect Department, Chennai-9

The Principal Secretary II to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9  
The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,  
Chennai-9

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

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

The Finance(Agri)Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.

The Cooperation, Food and Consumer Protect Department, Chennai-9

The Office of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai-9

The Assistant Programmer, Agriculture Department, Chennai-9

The Agriculture (OP3) Department, Chennai-9,

The Agriculture (AM1/AM2) Department, Chennai-9

SF/SC

/FORWARDED BY ORDER/



Section Officer

SS  
08/4/2020

