

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

No. 6521 / SSD, Bhubaneswar Date 20.4.20
STSCD-TPR-PLAN2-0014-2019

From

Smt. Ranjana Chopra, IAS.
Principal Secretary

To

The Collector & District Magistrate / Superintendent of Police
Malkangiri/Koraput/Rayagada/Kalahandi/Kandhamal/Nabarangpur/Sambalpur/
Sundargarh / Keonjhar/ Mayurbhanj / Nuapada / Gajapati / Deogarh.

Sub: Procurement of Minor Forest produces (MFPs) under the scheme of "Mechanism for Marketing of Minor Forest Produce through Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Development of Value Chain for MFPs" by combating the impact of COVID 19 on ST primary collectors of MFPs.

Ref: Order bearing no.2214/R & DM (DM) dated 17.04.2020 issued by the Chief Secretary, Odisha (Point No.8 A,viii).

Sir/Madam,

The lockdown phase of COVID-19 has coincided with the peak season for collection & harvesting of the MFPs and majority of the STs of your district, are depended on this for their livelihood. Thus, it has become imperative on our part to initiate precautionary measures so as to protect them as well as their livelihood at this critical juncture. In this regard, advisories issued by the Government & particularly the instructions contained in the Master Circular on Social Distancing issued by the Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha are to be strictly followed. Key points are indicated in **Annexure-1**.

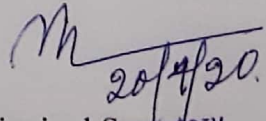
In this context, the Collectors may facilitate the following and ensure free movement of transport for this purpose:

1. Collection, harvesting and processing of NTFP/ MFP by tribal communities and other forest dwellers.
2. Registration of procurement agencies / individuals at the panchayat level.
3. Procurement of NTFP/ MFP by agencies like OSFDC and TDCC, etc through Primary Procurement Agencies.
4. Transport of these products till the storage godowns / cold storage.

I would therefore, request you to look into the matter on priority & initiate needful action so as to protect the livelihood of tribal MFP gatherers by allowing them to collect MFPs and sell those items through the Primary Procurement Agencies (PPAs) at MSPs fixed by the Government.

This may please be treated as **MOST URGENT**.

Yours faithfully,


Principal Secretary
S.T. & S.C. Development, Minorities
Backward Classes Welfare Department
Govt. of Odisha

Memo No. 6522 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to the Joint Secretary to Govt. Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 7th Floor, A-Wing, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New-Delhi-110001 / MD, TRIFED, NCUI Building, 3 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New-Delhi-110016 for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6523 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Director (ST)

20/4/2020

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to the ACS, Forest & Env. Department / ACS, Revenue & DM Department / Principal Secretary to Govt. PR & DW Department / Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department / PCCF, Odisha / all RDCs for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 6524 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Director (ST)

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to MD, TDCCOL, Unit-9, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action. He is requested to keep close watch over the matter & fix suitable days in a week to purchase MFPs from the STs collectors/gatherers by involving the PPAs after due consultation with the district administration, and thereby check any eventuality of spread of Corona Virus among the tribal communities. Weekly transfer of money to the respective accounts of the tribal MFP collectors/gatherers is to be ensured so that they do not suffer during this critical juncture.

Director (ST)

Memo No. 6525 / SSD, Dt. 20.4.20

Copy along with copy of the enclosure sent to all DFOs of the concerned districts PA, ITDAs concerned / DWOs concerned / Sub-Collectors concerned for information and necessary action.

Director (ST)

DO's and DON'Ts RELATING TO COLLECTION OF MFPs DURING COVID19 SCARE

- Unscrupulous market forces may try to exploit the tribal gatherers by pushing them to distress sale of MFPs. Hence, MSP on MFP scheme need to be implemented with extra energy, especially in the most vulnerable areas.
- The MFP gatherers must be advised regarding hygiene in the collection work. They must sanitize their hands before and after collection work & use hand gloves.
- Hand sanitizers must be placed at the entrance of all MFPs primary processing centres, including Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Every processor must sanitize hands before entering the centre and starting to work.
- The processors must not sit cluttered in the processing centres. They must be at least 2 meters away from each other. If the space in the centre is a constraint, they must be advised to work in different shifts, or work from home under clean conditions.
- Any person who has any form of cold or cough must not be allowed into the centre and all gatherers and processors must observe social distancing, especially from such persons.
- If a gatherer (or anybody in house) shows the slightest signs of Covid19, he/she should be subjected to screening and, if necessary, quarantining.
- The packing material for MFPs must be clean and without damage so that the handlers do not come in contact with the MFPs.
- To the extent possible, cash transactions must be minimized and amounts must be credited into the bank accounts of the MFP Collectors/gatherers. They must be encouraged and supported to adopt cashless practices through Government platforms like RuPay etc.

P
20/4/2020.
Director ST.