

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT**

Tribal Welfare Department - Scheduled areas to be declared as organic cultivated zone - Steps to promote organic farming in remaining pockets - Orders- Issued

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**SOCIAL WELFARE (TW.BUD.2) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.Ms.No.17**

**Dated : 21-04-2006**

**Read the following : -**

C.No.9968/TW.Bud/2005 dated 14/12/05 of Social Welfare  
(TW.Bud) Department

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**ORDER :**

Since ages the tribal people residing in the scheduled areas have been following traditional methods in Agriculture / cultivation. Due to this, almost in the entire scheduled area excepting small pockets, all the crops / NTFP (Non Timber Forest Produce) are organically cultivated by default. In certain pockets of scheduled areas of Andhra Pradesh, the limited usage of fertilizers, pesticides is only confined to certain crops like Paddy, tobacco in pockets.

2. For example, Paddy, Niger, Rajmah beans, Coffee, Pepper are the major crops of scheduled areas of Visakhapatnam. Coffee is grown in 50,000 acres tribal holdings, 10,500 acres by A.P. Forest Development Corporation and in 150 acres by Coffee board, Govt. of India. Out of this, while the tribal holdings are cultivating organically, APFDC Ltd., Coffee Board are using fertilizers and pesticides as part of intensive cultivation. In the project implemented by ITDA, a conscious decision was taken to go for organic farming under which vermi composting is being promoted.

3. The default organic nature in this area has provided a natural advantage to meet the growing and preferred demand for such organically grown crops. The advantageous situation has prompted the Tribal Welfare Department to declare the entire area or pockets of areas as organically cultivated zone. This will attract marketing agencies to market the produce

from this area under organic branding, in turn providing higher market price to the tribals.

4. The Tribal Welfare Department after taking the endorsement of the related departments like Agriculture, Forest Department, Coffee Board, Agriculture University, Spices Board, NGOs like Nandi foundation etc on the need for promoting organic cultivation and on the proposal for declaring Scheduled Areas or pockets of area as organic farming belt has submitted the proposal to the Government, accordingly.

5. After careful examination of the proposal endorsed by experts and the departments concerned, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, hereby issue order as follows:

- a. In the scheduled areas or pockets of scheduled areas as may be applicable, the Government will promote or switch over to organic farming practices in consultation / approval and with the participation of the tribal community or their representatives like village organizations/Grama Samakhyas, Mandal Samakhyas, Grama Panchayats, local people representatives etc.
- b. In normal procedure of organic certification, 3 years conversion period is required during which the required treatments are given to soil, usage of inorganic inputs discontinued and switch over to organic farming is resorted to etc.

The Tribal Welfare department will approach the certification agencies concerned for certifying the fields of groups of farmers/taking village or villages / mandal or mandals as unit, so that benefits of such certification could accrue to farmers and also to marketing bodies like Girijan Cooperative Corporation which is in retail marketing of agriculture produce and Non Timber Forest produce (NTFP).

- c. In most of the tribal area, due to its default organic nature, the Government feel that tribal farmers deserve to get the benefit of preliminary authorization of raising “Organically cultivated” during

the 3 year interregnum period and that such an authorization could be accorded at state level. The Project Officer of ITDAs in consultation with departments, Research stations etc., shall accordingly submit proposals for further declaration by Government accordingly.

d. Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC), Coffee Board, Govt. of India are also requested to go for organic farming practices in Paderu and other scheduled areas. The Forest Department, Departments of Horticulture, Agriculture, APFDC shall take conscious steps to discourage inorganic inputs and switch over as quickly as possible to organic cultivation within a reasonable time frame.

e. The Project Officers of ITDAs in consultation with Commissioner, Tribal Welfare; Commissioner, Agriculture; Commissioner Horticulture; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry departments shall initiate action to establish the institutional network for building awareness among tribal farmers. This shall aim at securing certification and new market openings. In this process the organizations like GCC, Indira Kranthi Patham and Women Self Help Groups shall be geared up to promote production and marketing of the organic branded produce.

6. The Government hereby constitute “A Committee on Promotion of Organic Farming in tribal areas” under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary with the following as members.

1	Chief Secretary, Government of A.P.	Chairman
2	Principal Secretary, Agriculture	Member
3	Principal Secretary, Horticulture	Member
4	Principal Secretary, EFS & T	Member
5	Principal Secretary, Tribal Welfare	Member
6	Commissioner, Agriculture	Member
7	Commissioner, Horticulture	Member
8	CEO, Velugu	Member
9	Commissioner/Director, Animal Husbandry	Member
10	Commissioner/Director, Fisheries	Member

- 11 Commissioner, Tribal Welfare  
12 Special Invitees

Member Convener  
Representatives of Coffee Board,  
Spices Board, ANGRAU, CRIDA, CIMAP  
etc as and when presence is required  
or to constitute subgroups.

7. The committee shall work out the modalities to be followed for :
- encouraging the farmers in tribal areas where there is need to sustain / consolidate / switch over to organic farming, as case may be;
  - accelerating the process of obtaining requisite certification from certification agencies and to promote the marketing avenues etc.

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

**T.K. DEWAN  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

**To**

The Commissioner of Tribal Welfare, Hyderabad  
The Prl. Secretary to Govt., Agriculture & Cooperation Dept., Hyderabad.  
The Prl. Secretary to Govt., EFS & T Dept., Hyderabad  
The Prl. Secretary to Govt., AH & Fisheries Dept., Hyderabad.  
The Prl. Secretary to Govt., Horticulture Dept., Hyderabad

**Copy to:**

The Commissioner / Director, Animal Husbandry, Hyderabad  
The Commissioner, Fisheries, Hyderabad.  
The Commissioner, Agriculture, Hyderabad  
The Chief Executive Officer, VELUGU, Hyderabad.  
All the Project Officers of ITDAs in the State  
PS to Minister, SW & TW/ Minister, Agriculture / Chief Secretary  
/ Prl. Secretary, TW  
Dy. Director, Coffee Board, Visakhapatnam  
Dy. Director, Spices Board, Hyderabad  
Vice Chancellor, ANGRAU, Hyderabad  
Director, CRIDA, Hyderabad  
Director, CIMAP, Hyderabad

**// FORWARDED BY ORDER//**

**SECTION OFFICER**