



Government of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department
(Procurement Cell)
Khadyashree Bhawan
11/A, Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087
<https://food.wb.gov.in>



Minutes of the meeting on procurement of paddy in KMS 2024-25

Date: 23rd October 2024 Time: 02:30 pm

Venue: Conference Hall of Khadyashree Bhawan

Members present: Separate sheet attached

Meeting started under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble MIC, F&S Department.

At the outset, the Principal Secretary, F&S Department extended welcome to Hon'ble MIC, Food & Supplies Department, Hon'ble MIC, P&RD Department, Hon'ble MOS, Food & Supplies Department and all the participants. He extended thanks to all the stakeholders for their positive roles and active participation in the earlier KMS 2023-24.

The Special Secretary (Procurement Cell) of F&S Department initiated the discussion and briefly stated the house about the preparedness of KMS 2024-25. He stated that in respect of full run of procurement procedure we are little bit lagging in terms of execution of Agreements by the Rice Millers. He also requested the Rice Mill Owners Association to take initiative for completing the pending CMR during KMS 2023-24.

Hon'ble MIC, P&RD Department also extended thanks to all the stakeholders for enhancing the paddy procurement from 30 LMT to 50 LMT within 10 years and ensuring better prices to small and marginal farmers and food security to the people of West Bengal. He also extended thanks to all CMR Agencies and other stakeholders for acting as the family members of the whole paddy procurement operation undertaken by the Department.

The President, Bengal Rice Mills Association requested the house in looking into the matter of revision of different incidentals including transportation charges and milling charges. He also appreciated the efforts of the department in making the billing, WQSC, Dispatch of paddy and payment to Millers online and timely payments after submission of the bills. He also assured co-operation from all member Millers in broader participation in paddy procurement operation.

The initiatives taken by the Food & Supplies Department for undertaking procedural reforms in making the paddy procurement operation and related activities simpler, transparent and faster were appreciated by all the members.

During the course of discussion various stakeholders / participant raised the points concerning their areas, offered suggestions and alternative proposals which were considered in cordial environment and best possible decision considering various aspects of Central and State Government policies and financial implications were taken subject to final approval by the competent authorities.

Following issues were discussed, deliberated upon and decisions taken as mentioned below: -

1. Role of CMR Agencies:

- 1.1. CMR Agencies were requested for ensuring adequate infrastructure and all required equipment to be made available before 2nd November. Calibration of moisture meter and weighing device should also be done before that, if not already done. CMR Agencies were requested to ensure that camps are scheduled 2nd November, 2024 onwards in the villages where harvesting is expected to be over and paddy may be available. The PPS should start visiting these villages for farmers registration / updation and scheduling the date for sale by farmers immediately, if not started already.
- 1.2. ECSC assured that they have no issue to start procurement process from 2nd November 2024.
- 1.3. BENFED has not been able to ensure availability of moisture meters for all their PPS despite requests from Food Department for long. However, Benfed has been requested to start with the available moisture meters of earlier KMS and arrange to procure the further required moisture meters soon. BENFED informed that they are in process for procurement of another 300 moisture meters.
- 1.4. Monitoring regarding signing of BA-III, Training to PPS, e-PoP mapping, scheduling of camps, undertaking publicity, registration of farmers by visiting the villages where camps are / to be scheduled should be strengthened at State and District level and corrective steps shall be taken as and when required.
- 1.5. CMR agencies should take immediate steps for implementing the awareness plan like displaying proper hoardings/banners at and around all procurement centers and ensure wide publicity, as per the guidelines already issued vide Memo No. 3937 (5)-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-27/22 dated 30.09.2024 within the stipulated time schedule.
- 1.6. CMR agencies shall keep strict vigil so that no PPS makes any unorganized camp for purchase of the paddy other than scheduled in the portal and purchases any paddy without making real-time entries in the e-PoP device.
- 1.7. CMR agencies shall ensure dispatch of paddy to the tagged rice mill in real time through e-PoP. No Despatch without Online Challan shall be made.
- 1.8. CMR agencies shall ensure daily analysis of reports, monitoring of performance and despatch and take prompt corrective actions.

2. Recovery of pending CMR during KMS 2023-24:

- 2.1. Till date five rice mills 03 from Birbhum, and one each from Purba Bardhaman and Purulia are yet to complete CMR delivery of earlier KMS 2023-24.
- 2.2. Total pending quantity of CMR is 14,032 MT. Out of which 1,207 MT is under Central Pool account and 12,825 MT is under State Pool account.
- 2.3. Bengal Rice Mill Association has been requested for taking suitable steps for entire recovery of pending CMR immediately.

3. Decision on the following issues:

- 3.1. **Revision of Out Turn Ratio:** Issue of revision of Out Turn Ratio is a policy matter concerning with GoI.
- 3.2. **Use of e-PoP and paddy cleaning machine at the Purchase Center:** Introduction of e-PoP in place of computer /Laptop for paddy procurement was made as it is handy and user friendly. It also has brought transparency and an organised and systematic procurement process. Due to its portability e-PoP can easily be carried at mobile purchase centers like mCPCs and PCs run by PPS. GoI has also made purchase through e-PoP and Aadhaar authentication mandatory.

Installation of paddy cleaning machine at each and every purchase centers may not be viable as procurement in West Bengal is being done in decentralised way and purchase centers are opened at several locations in a block and camps are organised even in remote villages unlike Punjab and Haryana where paddy is purchased at selected big mandis where farmers have to bring their produce even from long distances through own transportation. However, through intensive publicity through banner, poster, leaflet, hoarding, print media, radio and TV, farmers are being made aware to bring FAQ paddy at the purchase centers. But, in no way interest of farmers should be hampered. To avoid any dispute on paddy quality at the time of purchase, a Three Men Committee is already functional at the Block level to settle the dispute, if any.

- 3.3. **Transportation of Gunny bags:** Payment of the cost of transportation of gunny bags by the rice mills from base depot to the rice mill is under active consideration.
- 3.4. **Mandi Labour Charge:** Rs. 10/- was allowed by the GoI in the KMS 2023-24 as Mandi Labour Charges. The State Govt. gave additional Rs.2/- per quintal of paddy as Mandi Labour Charge (MLC) over and above Rs.10/-.

In the KMS 2024-25, GoI has allowed Rs. 11/- per quintal of paddy. It is pertinent to mention here that MLC is fixed by the Agri Marketing Deptt. on the basis of the minimum wages which is fixed by the Labour Deptt. and the Food & Supplies Department does not have any role on the fixation of MLC. Food & Supplies Deptt. proposes the rate of MLC in the Provisional Cost Sheet to the GoI based on the notification of the Agriculture Marketing Department. State Government has already approached GoI, regarding review of the MLC of Rs. 11/- per quintal approved in the PCS for KMS 2024-25. Further decision will be taken as per the response received from GoI.

- 3.5. **Tagging of Rice Mills with the Purchase Centers :** The Food & Supplies Department has already considered the change of tagging of Rice Mills at a purchase center at 30 days interval. It is evident that some of the Rice Mills were not getting paddy according to their milling capacity whereas some Rice Mills got paddy to the fullest extent of their milling capacity. This occurred due to inefficiency of the manual management of tagging of Rice Mills with the purchase centres. It is also a matter of fact that manual tagging of Rice Mills is very difficult for the district where nos. of purchase centres as well as nos. of Rice Mills are more. To eradicate the problem of erroneous tagging of Rice Mill, a system in the portal has been developed

which will suggest the DCF&S for tagging of up to 3 Rice Mills out of 6 options. But DCF&S may override the suggested sequence of the options in the portal with justifiable remarks to be entered in the portal which he can explain. The system will suggest the tagging based on some parameters of which distance has the highest priority.

3.6. Transportation charge on Paddy & CMR:

Before KMS 2022-23 there were three different rates for Transportation of food grains viz.

- A) Transportation of paddy,
- B) Transportation of CMR within district and
- C) Transportation of CMR outside districts.

The department felt that the previous rates of transportation of foodgrains were very much skewed in favour of "inter district transport of CMR" and against within district transportation of CMR and paddy. There were demands also from Rice Mills and Rice Mill Association regarding this issue.

With an objective of bringing uniformity and rationality in the process, revision of rates was made through tender floated in KMS 2023-24 for all three types of transportation as stated above.

This has effectively allowed overall average enhancement of about 32% above the previous rates taking into consideration all the three types of transportation of foodgrains.

As per GoI guidelines the transportation rates of foodgrains are applicable for two KMS. Hence, the rates of transportation determined through tender in KMS 2023-24 are applicable for KMS 2023-24 and KMS 2024-25 as tender was invited in 2023.

Presently, Average transportation cost for paddy is Rs. 33.65 and for CMR it is Rs. 39.37 per quintal in KMS 2022-23 onwards.

However, department is taking initiatives for floating tender in order to finalize the transportation rate for the KMS 2025-26, which shall be applicable for KMS 2025-26 and KMS 2026-27.

It has also been decided that DCFS shall ensure that all the participating rice mill of any district shall deliver CMR outside district, if required and such movement shall be planned in a coordinated manner from the beginning of the KMS itself to the possible extent.

3.7. Bank Guarantee:

- i. Minimum Bank Guarantee (BG) required for empanelment has already been reduced from 40 lakhs to 35 lakhs.
- ii. Rice mills falling under category A, B & C of Clause No. 14.2 of procurement order issued vide number 3901-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-18/2024 dated 27th September-2024 and have submitted BG and executed agreements (BA-I and

BA-II) **within 21.10.24** will be eligible to receive **3 times** of paddy equivalent to the BG stated in the aforesaid procurement order upto 31st March, 2025.

- iii. Rice mills falling under category A, B & C of Clause No. 14.2 of procurement order issued vide number 3901-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-18/2024 dated 27th September-2024 and have submitted BG and executed agreements (BA-I and BA-II) **within 30.10.24** will be eligible to receive **2.5 times** of paddy equivalent to the BG stated in the aforesaid procurement order upto 31st March, 2025.
- iv. Rice mills falling under category A, B & C of Clause No. 14.2 of procurement order issued vide number 3901-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-18/2024 dated 27th September-2024 and have submitted BG and executed agreements (BA-I and BA-II) **within 06.11.24** will be eligible to receive **2 times** of paddy equivalent to the BG stated in the aforesaid procurement order upto 31st March, 2025.
- v. Rice mills falling under category A, B & C of Clause No. 14.2 of procurement order issued vide number 3901-FS/Sectt./Food/4P-18/2024 dated 27th September-2024 and have submitted BG and executed agreements (BA-I and BA-II) **within 13.11.24** will be eligible to receive **1.5 times** of paddy equivalent to the BG stated in the aforesaid procurement order upto 31st March, 2025.

3.8. Milling Charge:

Milling charge was fixed by GoI at Rs. 20/- per quintal in the year 2006. Milling cost is not only compensated by the Milling Charges paid by Govt. Milling cost is compensated majorily by the by-products – husk, bran, broken rice and rice dust. In open market the, price of such by-products is such that the milling expenses are taken care of from the sale of these items.

Inspite of that, taking a considerate stand, F&S Deptt. made several correspondences with the GoI for upward revision of milling charge. The Finance Deptt., GoWB has also been approached for increasing the existing rates of milling charges over and above the rates fixed by GoI.


However, Govt. of West Bengal had allowed Rs. 10/- per quintal paddy over and above the milling charges allowed by GoI from state exchequer in order to incentivise the Rice Mills in 2016. Now, the State Govt, is favourably considering further upward revision of the milling charges over and above the existing milling charge paid to rice mills from its own exchequer till such revision is allowed by GoI, the rates of which shall be intimated later on.

Since, there are no other issues for discussion, meeting is ended with thanks to and from the Chair.

 29/10/24
Special Secretary to the Government of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department

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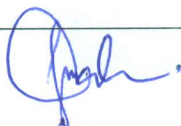









1. The Managing Director, BENFED.
2. The Managing Director, WBECSC Ltd.
3. The Director, Dte. Of DDP&S, F&S Department
4. The Special Secretary, ITR Cell, Food & Supplies Department.
5. The Joint Secretary (Procurement), Food & Supplies Department.
6. The Managing Director, PAMCL.
7. The Director of Finance, Food & Supplies Department.
8. The Deputy Secretary, HK Cell, Food & Supplies Department
9. The CEO. CONFED.
10. The Branch Manager, NAFED.
11. The P.S. to the Hon'ble MIC, Panchayat & Rural Development Department.
12. The P.S. to the Hon'ble MIC, Food & Supplies Department.
13. The P.S. to the Hon'ble MIC, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Textile Department.
14. The P.S. to the Hon'ble MoS, Food & Supplies Department.
15. The Sr. P.A. to the Principal Secretary, Food & Supplies Department.
16. The President/ Acting President/ Secretary/ Treasurer, Bengal Rice Mills Association.

 29/10/24
Special Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal
Food & Supplies Department

Any further correspondence or communication in reference to this communication should be addressed to the signing authority and send to the email ID: proccell.fs-wb@bangla.gov.in.

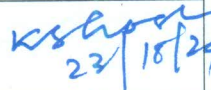
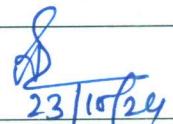
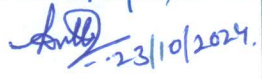
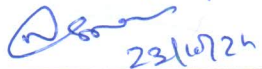



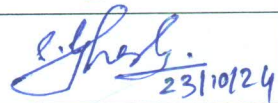
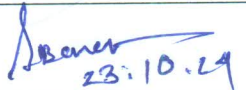
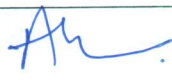
Attendance sheet for the meeting on 23.10.2024 at 2.30 PM at the Conference Hall of the F&S Department, Khadyasree Bhawan, 11A, Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata- 700087

Sub: Different issues on paddy procurement for KMS 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Name	Office/Designation	Mobile no.	Signature
1	Sri Rathin Ghosh	Hon'ble MIC, F&S Department		
2	Sri Pradip Kr. Mazumdar	Hon'ble MIC, P&RD Department		
3	Sri Chandranath Sinha	Hon'ble MIC, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise and Textiles		
4	Smt. Jyotsna Mandi	Hon'ble MoS, F&S Department		
5	Parwez Ahmad Siddiqui, IAS	Principal Secretary, F&S Department		
6	Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary, Co-Operation Deptt. & Managing Director, BENFED		
7	Dr. A. Subbiah, IAS (Retired)	MD, WBECS Ltd.		
8	Sri Jaideep Duttgupta, IAS	CEO, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board		
9	Sri Suman Ghosh, WBCS (Exe.)	Dte. of DDP&S and Dte. of Rationing	9433873592	
10	Sri Abhijit Maitra, WBCS(Exe.)	Special Secretary, F&S Department		
11	Sri Premab Biswas, WBCS(Exe.)	Special Secretary, F&S Dept.	8250842887	
12	Sri Sandip Ghosh, IAS	Joint Secretary (Proc.), F&S Dept.	—	
13	Sri Sumit Gobinda Choudhury, WBA&AS	Director of Finance, F&S Department	9433379500	
14	Sri Indranil Bhattacharya, WBCS(Exe.)	P.S. to Hon'ble MIC, F&S Department	9735246639	
15	Sri Pranabesh Mandal, WBCS(Exe.)	P.S. to Hon'ble MoS, F&S Department	826024622	






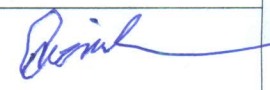



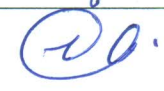
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Sub: Different issues on paddy procurement for KMS 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Name	Office/Designation	Mobile no.	Signature
16	Smt. Kaberi Ghosh, WBCS(Exe.)	Deputy Secretary(Proc.), F&S Department		 23/10/24
17	Sri Siddhartha Sengupta	General Manager (Business), BENFED, JRCS		
18	Sri Abir Kumar Bali	General Manager, WBECSC	91230 55 848	 23/10/24
19	Sri Ajay Kumar Ram /Subhas Anta	CEO, CONFED /CDO	7980225573	 23/10/2024.
20	Sri Tarun Handa	State Head, NAFED, West Bengal		Banerjee 23/10/24
21	Sri Surajit Debnath, WBF&SS	OSD (Procurement) & Joint Director		 23/10/24
22	Sri Bappaditya Chanda, WBF&SS	OSD (Procurement) & Joint Director	9434234856	 23/10/24
23	SANTANU PANDIT	Marketing Manager, BENFED	9674746921	S. Pandit
24	BARUN DAS	Asst. Manager (Marketing), BENFED	8697798324	
25	Debnath Banerjee	NAFED	7003261660	
26	Sayantan Ghosh	FO, PAMCL	8240812095	 23/10/24
27	SURAJIT BANERJEE	AM-1, CONFED	7001089580	 23.10.24
28	ASIM KRANANDI	JD, of DDPS	7604068599	
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Sub: Different issues on paddy procurement for KMS 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Name	Office/Designation	Mobile no.	Signature
1	Sri Sushil Kumar Chowdhury	President, Bengal Rice Mills Association	9609650000	
2	Abdul Malek	Acting President, Bengal Rice Mills Association	9434021339	
3	Sri Manoj Fogla	General Secretary, Bengal Rice Mills Association	7001132388	
4	Sri Tarapada Mahapatra	Treasurer, Bengal Rice Mills Association	9434748914	
5	ARUN GOENKA	Jr. Secy of Mchd R. M. Association	9775501674	
6	NIRMA C AGARWAL	Mchd R. M. Association	9932601766	
7	JAY K. MAROJI	Sec - MSD R. M. A.	9233380803	
8	SANJIB MAJUMDAR	President. B.D.R.M.A	9434744170	
9	Ajankar de	Secretary Paschim Medini pr D.R.MOA	9434145527 921	
10	Sunil Ghosh	President Arankar P.M.A. 14000	9939006730	
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