

Green card scheme

The State faces an alarming deficit on the food front. The State is not producing even one fifth of its rice requirement. The 'green card' is one of the many schemes drawn up by the Government to increase paddy production. The green card facility will be launched for farmers at Palakkad on November 1, 2008.

The objective of the scheme is to increase production of paddy in the State from six lakh tones to eight lakh tones. Farmers holding green cards will be entitled to interest free loans up to 180 days for nurturing their crops. The Kerala Government will issue 'green cards' to paddy farmers to help them avail themselves of interest-free loans from cooperative banks. The other initiatives include encouraging group farming; financial assistance of Rs 500 a hectare for taking paddy cultivation in fallow lands; production bonus and free electricity; procurement of paddy from the farmers at higher price; and insurance cover at low premium. On the basis of the details provided, the green cards will be printed using the software developed by the Farm Information Bureau and given to the farmers. Farmers can avail this from krishibhavan and they will distribute the requisite forms to the farmers for recording the personal details, which will, in turn, be verified by the Agriculture Officer. The green card scheme will be initially introduced in Palakkad, Alappuzha and Thrissur districts. The green card holders will also receive assistance under various Government schemes directly through their bank accounts.

References

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