

# **Report on Model Food Safety Grama Panchayath Scheme**

## **Commissionerate of Food Safety, Kerala**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The health status of Kerala has been a model for other states of India. It has been made possible by the continuous efforts of the government through various programmes aimed at ensuring total healthcare of the people of Kerala.

Various factors such as availability of potable water, safe and wholesome food, suitable environmental and climatic conditions, in addition to high literacy levels and a robust primary health care system have contributed in achieving high health indicators in Kerala.

However, the health status of Kerala is presently facing new challenges. Incidences of communicable disease primarily in the form of acute diarrheal illnesses, food poisoning cases and other food or water borne diseases are on the rise. These are likely to be caused by contamination happening due to unhygienic handling of food at various stages of the food chain including procurement, processing and consumption. Another major factor is the scarcity of safe drinking water.

Kerala being a consumer state has simultaneous challenge of procuring food items from other states. The food safety issues come to the forefront when it is observed that fruits/vegetables or fish/meat procured from other states is laden with harmful chemicals, artificial preservatives and pesticides. Therefore, Kerala today is at an increased risk of chronic life threatening diseases including cancer. Kerala is also having the second highest rate of obesity in the country, a major cause being high consumption of non nutritious and processed/ refined foods.

There are complaints from the public regarding various issues pertaining to the quality of food, unhygienic conditions of food preparation, addition of synthetic food colours, unethical use of taste enhancers such as MSG (mono sodium glutamate) and use of spoilt food ingredients for the manufacture of food.

Certain issues related to food safety have received lot of media attention such as indiscriminate use of pesticides in fruits and vegetables, unlawful use of chemicals like Ammonia and Sodium Benzoate in fish (Fish being a staple part of local cuisine) use of preservatives and neutralizers in milk, and artificial ripening of mangoes with calcium carbide etc

In light of these circumstances, The department of Food Safety Kerala, has made relevant timely interventions with regard to major issues of Food Safety, by means of continuous surveillance and enforcement activities to identify the causative factors and take necessary steps to eradicate unlawful and unethical pursuits in the food trade, so as to protect the health of the people of Kerala.

Widespread surveillance activities have been undertaken to tackle the issue of excessive pesticide residue found in fruits and vegetables brought from neighbouring states. Statutory samples have been picked from various locations including check posts to have a better understanding of the mode and route of entry and distribution of pesticide laden vegetables and fruits in the state.

A statewide project named “Operation Sagar Rani” has been launched to conduct strict enforcement activities to ensure the sale of safe fish within the state, since it is consumed by a majority of the population

Special enforcement drives/ raids were conducted targeting hotel and restaurants, bakeries, juice stalls and ice cream parlours and improvement notices, closures and legal action as appropriate is being taken.

Several other progressive projects such as “School Health Programme”, to impart awareness about safe and wholesome food to school students, “RUCHI”, a programme for Food Business Operators to create awareness on the restricted usage of Chemicals and harmful ingredients in food have been successfully implemented by the department.

However, the need to have a grass roots level behavioural change in the knowledge, attitude and practices of the common man (the consumer) is highly essential. Further the awareness of Food Business Operators combined with

enforcement of Food safety and standards Act at the local level will be an ideal situation to ensure food safety.

### **MODEL FOOD SAFETY GRAMA PANCHAYATH PROGRAMME 2016-17**

In connection with the effective implementation of 'Surakshitha Aahaaram Aarogyathinu Aadhaaram' (Safe food for Healthy Life) scheme, The Department of Food Safety, Govt. of Kerala, has come up with an action plan of ensuring 100% Food Safety compliance in all the Grama Panchayaths of the state of Kerala, with the ultimate objective to transform each grama panchayath into fully food safety and standards compliant grama panchayat, ensuring safe, wholesome and hygienic food to every consumer.

As a pilot project, "Aruvikkara" grama panchayath in Thiruvananthapuram District was initially selected for the first phase implementation of the programme. The Model Food safety Grama Panchayath programme has been extended to 50 grama panchayaths in the state of Kerala during the financial year 2016-17 and has been implemented since February 2017 on a full scale.

Food Safety awareness classes were conducted for Food Business Operators, School students, Anganwadi workers and Asha helpers, Kudumbasree workers and Farmer's groups etc. on various topics pertaining to Food Safety. Public water distribution sources of the panchayath were examined and IEC (Information, Education, Communication) materials on food safety were distributed to all the stakeholders in the panchayath.

As a part of the initial phase wise implementation of the programme, 50 grama panchayaths spread across 14 districts in the State of Kerala have been selected during the financial year 2016-2017 and a sum of Rs.75,00,000/- has been allotted from the Plan Fund of the Govt. of Kerala, towards the implementation of the same.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Model Food Safety Grama Panchayath Programme envisages to achieve the following core objectives:

- Complete Licensing /Registration of all Food Business Operators in the selected Panchayaths.
- Food Safety Awareness classes at different levels for different stakeholders comprising of School and College Students, Kudumbasree workers, Anganwadi & Asha workers and helpers, Hotel& Restaurant owner's Association, Merchant's Association and Resident's Association.
- Analysis of drinking water quality sourced from public wells and taps.
- Awareness programme on Organic Farming in collaboration with Farmer's self help groups (Karshika Karma Sena)
- Awareness classes and workshops on Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition in coordination with IMA (Indian Medical Association) and Nutrition Boards.
- Revamping the functioning of Slaughter Houses in the selected Panchayaths by consulting with Local Self Administration Bodies.
- Specific sector based food safety awareness for different stakeholders including Fish Traders/ Vendors, market employees, Fruit and vegetable wholesalers, retailers and vendors and Petty Food business operators/Street Food Vendors.
- Awareness on Food Safety for the employees of Panchayath administration.
- Food Safety awareness for Mess/Canteen employees associated with Offices, Hospitals, Schools, Colleges and Hostels of the respective Panchayaths.

### **Implementation of the Programme at the District Level:**

The Assistant Commissioners of Food safety, at each district was directed about the mode of detailed implementation of the programme along with the fund allocated for the smooth conduct of the programme.

The directions provided include:

- Selection of 3 or 4 Grama Panchayaths for the implementation of the programme at each District.
- Meeting with the representatives of the Panchayath administration ie., Panchayath President/Secretary and detailing of the Programme and formation of a Monitoring Committee at the Panchayath Level.
- Collection of data pertaining to all food business operators in the respective panchayaths and steps to be taken for organizing License/Registration Melas for providing License/Registration to those FBO's who do not have the same.
- Preparation of list of all potable water sources in the Panchayath and analysis of water quality in all the public distribution sources.
- Preparation of list of all Anganwadis and School Noon Meal schemes in the Panchayath and taking necessary steps to ensure food safety at all stages including distribution,storage,cooking and serving of food.
- Preparation of an exhaustive list of all Food manufacturing and distribution outlets and inspection of these outlets.
- Conducting a Public Food Safety Awareness Rally by incorporating all the stakeholders involved in the food safety chain such as School and College students, Kudumbasree workers, Anganwadi workers, Food Business Operators and members of the local administration.
- Conducting a minimum of 5 Food Safety awareness classes incorporating different stakeholders at each Panchayath.
- Preparation and distribution of Food Safety Awareness Notices Brochures and Banners for the general public towards strengthening IEC activities.
- Exhibition of Food Safety banners in front of prime locations and Food Business Establishments of the Panchayath.

- Setting up of a Hoarding at the most prominent location of the Panchayath in order to draw public attention towards Food Safety.

The details of the selected Panchayaths are enlisted:

<b>S.No:</b>	<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Panchayaths selected</b>
1	<b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>	(i) Cherunniyoor (ii) Parassala (iii) Vamanapuram
2	<b>Kollam</b>	(i) Chavara (ii) Chadayamangalam (iii) Pathanapuram (iv) Kalluvathukkal
3	<b>Alapuzha</b>	(i) Chunakkara (ii) Aroor (iii) Kanjikuzhi (iv) Muthukulam
4	<b>Pathanamthitta</b>	(i) Mallappuzhasserry (ii) Pandalam Thekkekkara (iii) Kuttoor
5	<b>Idukki</b>	(i) Adimali (ii) Muttom (iii) Peermade
6	<b>Kottayam</b>	(i) Aymanam (ii) Kidangoor (iii) Parathodu (iv) Bharananganam
7	<b>Ernakulam</b>	(i) Aavoli (ii) Chengamanad (iii) Nayarambalam
8	<b>Thrissur</b>	(i) Nenmanikkara (ii) Arimboor

		(iii) Paralam (iv) Mulamkunnathukavu
9	<b>Palakkad</b>	(i) Malambuzha (ii) Koduvayur (iii) Wadakkancherry (iv) Vaniyamkulam
10	<b>Malappuram</b>	(i) Makkaraparamba (ii) Kodur (iii) Ponmundam (iv) Wandoor
11	<b>Kozhikode</b>	(i) Nanmanda (ii) Edachery (iii) Narikunim (iv) Perumanna
12	<b>Wayanad</b>	(i) Thirunelly (ii) Mullankolly (iii) Muttil
13	<b>Kannur</b>	(i) Pattiam (ii) Kadambur (iii) Chirakkal (iv) Cherukunnu
14	<b>Kasargode</b>	(i) Chengala (ii) Kumbala (iii) Cheruvathur
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

## **STATE LEVEL INAUGURATION**

A formal state wide inauguration of “Sampoorna Bhakshya Suraksha Grama Panchayath” programme was carried out by the Honourable Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt.K.K. Shylaja Teacher on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, at Pattiyam Grama Panchayath in Kannur District.

The various facets of the programme such as Licensing and Registration of all FBO's, Food Safety Awareness Classes for the stakeholders, Water sampling and analysis and revamping of slaughter houses were highlighted

The concept and the mode of implementation of the Programme were presented by Dr.Navjot Khosa, Commissioner of Food Safety, who delivered the welcome address and provided a detailed description of the programme to be implemented throughout the state.

The Honourable Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt.K.K. Shylaja stressed upon the importance of food safety in daily life and urged the citizens to engage and participate actively in the execution of the programme at all Panchayath levels. The minister went ahead to commend the Department of Food Safety in its efforts towards achieving 100% Food Safety at the grass root level of the society, through such an innovative programme.

The event witnessed an active participation of all members of the respective Panchayath governing bodies in the district, in addition to representatives from Hotel and Bakery Association, Merchant's association, Kudumbasree workers Anganwadi and Asha workers and the general public.





**“സമ്പൂർണ്ണ ഭക്ഷ്യസുരക്ഷാ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്” പദ്ധതി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതിന്റെ സംസ്ഥാനതല ഉദ്ഘാടനം**

2017 ഫെബ്രുവരി 6  
വൈകുന്നേരം 3 മണിക്ക്  
പാട്യം പഞ്ചായത്ത് കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി ഹാൾ



**ഉദ്ഘാടനം**  
ശ്രീമതി. കെ കെ ശൈലജ ടീച്ചർ  
ബഹു. ആരോഗ്യ കൂട്ടംബക്ഷേമ സാമൂഹ്യനീതി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി



മാന്യരെ

01.02.2017

ഭക്ഷ്യ സുരക്ഷാ കമ്മീഷണറേറ്റ് ഭക്ഷ്യസുരക്ഷ ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന “സമ്പൂർണ്ണ ഭക്ഷ്യ സുരക്ഷാ ഗ്രാമ പഞ്ചായത്ത്” പദ്ധതിയുടെ സംസ്ഥാനതല ഉദ്ഘാടനം 2017 ഫെബ്രുവരി 6-ാം തീയതി തിങ്കളാഴ്ച 3 മണിക്ക് കണ്ണൂർ ജില്ലാ പഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രസിഡന്റ് ശ്രീ. കെ വി സുമേഷിന്റെ അധ്യക്ഷതയിൽ ശ്രീ. മുല്ലപ്പള്ളി രാമചന്ദ്രൻ എം പി, ശ്രീ. കെ കെ രാഗേഷ് എം പി എന്നിവരുടെ മഹനീയ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിൽ നടക്കുന്ന പൊതുയോഗത്തിൽ വച്ച് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ആരോഗ്യ കൂട്ടംബക്ഷേമ സാമൂഹ്യനീതി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി ശ്രീമതി കെ കെ ശൈലജ ടീച്ചർ നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നു.

തദവസരത്തിൽ താങ്കളുടെ മഹനീയ സാന്നിധ്യം സാദരം ക്ഷണിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

എന്ന്,

രാജീവ് സദാനന്ദൻ ഐഎഎസ്  
അഡീഷണൽ ചീഫ് സെക്രട്ടറി,  
ആരോഗ്യ കൂട്ടംബക്ഷേമം, കേരളം

ഡോ.നവ്ജോത് ബോസ ഐഎഎസ്  
ഭക്ഷ്യസുരക്ഷാ കമ്മീഷണർ,  
കേരളം

**Brochure on the State wide inauguration of “Sampoorna Bhakshya Suraksha Grama Panchayath”**



***Inaugration of "Sampoorna Bhakshya Suraksha Grama Panchayath" by the Honourable Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Smt. K.K. Shylaja, at Pattiyam Panchayath, Kannur District***



*Honourable Minister addressing the gathering*

