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From 27/7/26

HTC-F (1)-1/2024
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Horticulture.

The Secretary (Hort.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.



To

The Director of Horticulture,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.

SMS(M)

28.07.2026

Dated: Shimla-2,

the

24/07/2026

Subject:

**Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of C-
Grade Apple in Himachal Pradesh during the year-2026.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter no. 1-2/2024-Udyan(M)-Vol-II, dated 01-06-2026 on the subject cited above and to convey the approval of the Government for implementation of Market Intervention Scheme for procurement of C- grade Apple in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2026 in line with the revised guidelines of Market Intervention Scheme under the umbrella of PM-AASHA issued by Government of India during the year 2024 as under: -

1. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) will be implemented in collaboration with the Central Government for the procurement of 1,50,000 M.T. of C- Grade Apple for which procurement price will be ₹ 12.00/- per kg.
2. As per revised operational guidelines of Market Intervention Scheme, the Overhead Expenses will be up to a maximum of 25% of Market Intervention Price, which can be reduced as deemed appropriate depending upon nature of crop and prevailing market situation. Therefore, based upon the Market Intervention Price of ₹ 12 per kg. maximum permissible overhead expenses are ₹ 3 per kg subject to condition that overhead expenses are to be supported by actual payment vouchers/receipts.
3. The Assumed Sale Realization will be ₹ 3.50/Kg.

4. Under the scheme, 132 procurement centers will be managed by HPMC. However HIMFED may also be associate for procurement of apples, if needed. The procurement will be manned by the agency with their own staff, as and when needed according to the availability of the fruits in locality.
5. Under the scheme, the fruits shall be procured and handled until final disposal in 35 Kg Gunny bags, however keeping in view the availability, the preference shall be given for recyclable plastic crates (capacity 16 kg each). The fruit may be brought by the farmers up to the procurement center in any suitable packaging material, in such a way that fruit should not be damaged, as the damaged produce shall be returned to farmers. Farmers shall be required to provide 2.5% extra fruit (by weight) as an average to compensate for evaporation and respiration losses during the procurement and handling operations.
6. Only apple having diameter above 51 mm will be procured/accepted under the scheme. Fruits with punctured skin, bird eaten, wind fallen, dried or shriveled, with severe attack of fungal diseases/insect/pests or rotten fruits, or sprayed with ethephon would not be accepted. Minor defects in shape, blemishes, slight hail damage, russet ting etc. would be accepted, such that the fruit is generally fit for processing.
7. This scheme will be implemented in the State w.e.f. **01-08-2026 to 31-10-2026.**
8. The Procurement agency and the Department must ensure the procurement of fruits under the scheme as per guidelines at **Annexure-I**. Copy of the same to be pasted at prominent place of Apple collection center.

You are, therefore, requested to give wide publicity to the above mentioned decision of the Government so that the fruit growers in the Pradesh could derive maximum benefit from the Scheme. The implementation report be sent to this department immediately.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Vikram Singh, HPAS)
Joint Secretary (Hort.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Ph. No. : 0177-2628483

Copy for information and necessary action to: -

1. The Deputy Commissioner (MPS), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. The Principal Secretary (Fin./Planning) to the Govt. of H.P w.r.t. File No. PLG (PI)1-2/92-XVI-Adv-93/2026, dated 15-06-2026.
3. The Secretary(GAD) to the Govt. of H.P. w.r.t. Item No. 65 approved in the meeting of CMM held on 20-07-2026.
4. The Managing Director, HPMC, Shimla.
5. The Managing Director, HIMFED, Shimla.
6. The Director, I&PR, H.P., Shimla-02 for vide publicity.
7. The Sr.PS to Hon'ble Horticulture Minister, H.P.
8. Guard file.

Joint Secretary (Hort.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh
Ph. No. 0177-2628483

Guidelines to be followed by farmers at the procurement centers while depositing fruit produce for C grade apple fruits under Market Intervention Scheme 2026.

1. Fruit quality parameters:

- i. Mature fruits of size of C grade (**at least 51 mm diameter**), intact, sound, clean and free from foreign smell/taste, free from fungal infections, insects / pests and other kinds of spoilage. Different varieties of apple fruit should be harvested at the right stage of maturity for that variety, the fruit should neither be raw nor overripe.
- ii. Fruits with punctured skin, bird eaten, wind fallen, dried or shriveled, with severe attack of fungal diseases / insect / pests or rotten fruits. or sprayed with ethephon will not be accepted.
- iii. Minor defects in shape, blemishes, slight hail damage, russetting etc. would be accepted, such that the fruit is generally fit for processing.

2. Quantity

- i. Fruits would be procured in **gunny/crates** having capacity of **35 Kg/16kg** each. The fruit may be brought by the farmers up to the procurement centre in any suitable packaging material.
- ii. Farmers shall be required to provide **2.5% extra** fruit (by weight) as an overage to compensate for evaporation and respiration losses during the procurement and handling operations. The total weight of fruit in a **gunny bags** shall be **35.87 Kg** (35 Kg+0.87 Kg overage) OR in **plastic crate** shall be at least **16.4 kg** (16kg + 0.4kg overage). However, payment shall be made for 35kg/16 kg fruit, excluding weight of gunny bag/crate or extra fruit.
- iii. Only such quantity of fruit shall be accepted at the MIS collection centers that is proportionate to the land owned by the farmer and orchard area, with a **maximum of 100 bags per farmer**.

3. Farmer eligibility:

- i. Registration of farmers on MIS Portal of HPMC, is mandatory and without complete registration no fruit shall be received from the farmers. Farmers can easily register on portal either through "Agristack registration ID" or can do self-registration or can contact Common Service Centres/ *Lok Mitra Kender*, by paying nominal fee of

Rs. 50/- (Rs. 45/ CSC charges and Rs. 5/- payable to HP Society for Promotion of IT & e-Governance (SITEG) of DIT Govt. of HP)

- ii. Only those farmers are eligible to supply who belong to the area notified for that procurement center, as well as possess land and orchard area in proportion to the fruit brought to the procurement centre.
 - iii. No fruit would be procured from contractors / traders / commission agents etc.
 - iv. In case of procurement from FPOs / FPCs/ Co-operative societies, the complete details of contributing individual farmers shall be provided by the concerned FPO / FPC/ Co-operative society along with their registration details.
4. The procurement price for fruits, as approved by the Government shall be paid to the farmers.
 5. Farmers should transport fruits immediately after harvesting to notified MIS collection centers and avoid damage to the fruit, just as they would while sending to forwarding agents for retail sale in market yards (Mandies).
 6. All the expenses for bringing the fruit up to the procurement center, including transportation and unloading of fruits at the procurement center would be borne by the fruit growers.
 7. Expenses incurred after the procurement of fruit would be borne by the procurement agency.
 8. Farmers are requested to bring the fruits of different varieties in separate crates / packages as far as possible.
 9. Fruit procurement at the collection centers shall be done from **10.00 AM to 5.00 PM** and centers will remain **closed on Sundays** and other gazetted holidays.
 10. Farmers should bring the fruits to collection centers as per the date and time decided and communicated by the incharge, so that procured fruits can be further dispatched/transported at the earliest without spoilage.

Guidelines for Operating Procedures to be followed at Procurement Centers:

1. Prior to onset of the procurement under MIS, the training to the Incharges and any other outsourced staff, shall be provided by the procurement agency in coordination with the Department of Horticulture.

2. Procurement personnel shall weigh the fruits properly and ensure correct quantity, as well as quality. To ensure that the produce brought to the procurement center fulfils the quality criteria as per the guidelines, the **incharge of the collection center will be authorized to draw random sample** from the received lot of individual farmer.
3. Incharge of collection center shall **reject the entire lot** of fruits, (and not in part) if the drawn sample does not fulfil the quality standards fixed for procurement under MIS. Proper documentation of the same shall be ensured.
4. The name of procurement center and its code shall be marked with red paint near the sealing / tying area of the gunny bag/plastic crate at the time of collection.
5. The gunny / crates bags should be handled with proper care so that the same packing material can be reused.
6. The Incharge of the collection center shall issue the **digital receipt** to the farmer, immediately after thoroughly checking the fruits for quality and quantity, and recording the details.
7. Only after proper verification and proper entry in the online portal by the respective Branch managers, an **online receipt** shall be issued to the farmers in **digital mode (through message link and WhatsApp)**. There should be no delay in issuance of receipt.
8. Only the receipt issued by the Incharge of the collection center duly signed/stamped by the incharge in lieu of collected fruits shall be valid for any claims. The farmers shall not be entitled to any claims for a receipt issued by any other person or officer.
9. The number of crates / gunny bags as well as quantity of fruits shall be mentioned in figures as well as words on the receipt and the same shall be duly signed with date by both the incharge of the collection center as well as the farmer.
10. The incharge shall ensure to handover and take receipt for the stocks procured / stored at the center from the night duty security/watchman before leaving the collection center, and the same shall be cross checked the following morning before beginning procurement for the day.
11. The in-charge should hold fruits in such a way as to protect from sun and rain to avoid any spoilage till it is transported further. Normally, no fruit shall be stored at the procurement center and it should be disposed immediately. In case of likely chances of holiday (s), the produce received till that day shall be transported to the next destination, i.e. processing unit, CA/cold store or auction center.

12. For the temporary holding of fruits tarpaulin should be erected in such a way that there is gap of 5 feet between height of tarpaulin and plastic crates. This is required for proper ventilation and reduce the impact of heat during the holding time at center.
13. The procurement agency shall ensure to equip the collection centers with tarpaulin, weighing machine, Vernier calipers, CCTV and videography arrangements, access to MIS software and other materials required for procurement.
14. Incharges of the collection centers shall record the details of procurement in real time on Management Information System, and report daily (except on Sundays and gazetted holidays) the details of procured and transported fruits to sub office/ office of procurement agency and Directorate of Horticulture, HP.
15. Both farmers and the officers deputed for MIS are required to ensure transparency in the procurement process, in case of any irregularity both shall be held responsible jointly.
16. If any farmer/ antisocial element misbehaves with the incharge of the collection center, or pressurizes the incharge to accept fruits not meeting quality, quantity and eligibility criteria forcefully at the collection center, then the incharge is authorized to close the collection center and report the incident to the procurement agency as well as Directorate of Horticulture.
17. Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) of the concerned jurisdiction or any officer deputed by them shall inspect procurement centers and check the operations to ensure transparency in the process, proper recordkeeping and real-time reporting. They may visit any of the centers in their jurisdiction at any time.
18. Flying squad teams at district and state level shall inspect procurement centers randomly from time to time.