

No. 1-39/DA/Agri Mktg/Neera/2017-18/ 739

अण्डमान तथा निकोबारप्रशासन

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

कृषिनिदेशालय

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE

Port Blair dated 27th March, 2018

ORDER

Coconut is the lifeline of majority of Island farmers. Any income generating activity of coconut will directly help in improving the socio-economic status of island farmers as it provides livelihood security and employment opportunity.

Sweet Toddy (Neera) – nutritious health drink tapped from the coconut inflorescence is gaining momentum in domestic as well as global market.

To promote tapping, production, possession and processing of Sweet Toddy (Neera) and production of its value added products in A & N Islands, the competent authority has been pleased to frame the following Guidelines:

1. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

- (a) These guidelines may be called- “Guidelines to promote tapping, production, possession and processing of sweet toddy (neera) and production of its value added products in A & N Islands”.
- (b) They shall come into force at once.

2. DEFINITIONS

(1) In these guidelines, unless the context otherwise requires:-

- (a) **“Applicant”** means the Coconut Producers Society registered with Coconut Development Board, Coconut Producers Company, Farmers Producers Organization or individual farmer;
- (b) **“Coconut Farmers”** means a person growing coconut trees in his own land, not less than 5 healthy bearing palms;

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- (c) **“Coconut Development Board (CDB)”** means the board established under the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 (Central Act 5 of 1979);
- (d) **“Coconut Producers Society” (CPS)**- means an association of 30 to 100 Coconut farmers in a contiguous area, registered as a society and subsequently registered with the Coconut Development Board;
- (e) **“Coconut Producers Company”** means a federation of association of coconut farmers and registered or deemed to have been registered under the companies Act, 2013 and subsequently registered with the Coconut Development Board;
- (f) **“Forms”** means forms appended to these guidelines;
- (g) **“Competent Authority”** means the Director of Agriculture or any officer authorized by the Administration;
- (h) **“Farmers Producers Organization” (FPO)** - means a company registered under the Companies Act, 2013 having coconut farmers as its members;
- (i) **“Manufactory/Processing cum Storage Unit”** means the room or building specified in the permit for processing and storing(including cold storage)of Sweet Toddy (**Neera**)and its products;
- (j) **“Neera Technician”**- means person trained in tapping of Neera methodically from CDB Institute of Technology or having a certificate from such institute;
- (k) **“Sweet Toddy (Neera)”**- means the juice drawn from a coconut, Palmyra or any other kind of palm and collected in receptacles in any manner and not subjected to fermentation;
- (l) **“Tree”**-means coconut, Palmyra and/or date palm etc.
- (m) **“Value Added Products”**- value added products from Sweet Toddy(Neera) include packed Neera, fresh Neera dispensed through a cold chain, Neera honey, Neera jaggery, Neera chocolates, Neera candy and Neera sugar or any other products in which Neera concentrate or Neera sugar is an ingredient;
- (2) All other words and expressions used herein and not defined in these guidelines shall have the meaning respectively assigned to them in the concerned act, regulation and rules framed thereunder;

3. NODAL AGENCY– High value Agriculture Development Agency of the Department of Agriculture will be the Nodal Agency for promotion of Neera and its value added products.

4. ISSUE OF PERMIT

- (a) All Coconut Producer Society registered with the Coconut Development Board, Coconut Producer Company or Farmer Producer Organization individual farmer are eligible for manufacture, possession and processing of sweet toddy (Neera) and production of its value added products.
- (b) Persons/Organization desirous of undertaking the activity have to apply to the Director of Agriculture/competent authority for obtaining permission for tapping, production, possession and processing of sweet toddy (Neera) and production of its value added products in A & N Islands.
- (c) Permission would be granted by the competent authority for distribution of Neera& its value added products for distribution on payment of annual fees of `1000/- by the applicant society` 100/- for individual farmer.
- (d) The competent authority reserves the right to restrict the number of permission granted in each district during the financial year with prior approval of Administrative Secretary.
- (e) Permission issued will be inforce from the 1st day of April to the 31st day of March of the succeeding year. If the permission is obtained on any day after the 1st day of April still it shall be valid upto the 31st day of March of that financial year.
- (f) No Sweet Toddy (Neera) or its value added products shall be manufactured or distributed without obtaining permission from the Competent Authority.
- (g) Permission will be issued to only those CPS/CPC/FPO who are having trained Neera technician or individual farmer who has done any training in the field.
- (h) No applicant is eligible for the privilege, if he is convicted for any offence under the A & N Islands Excise Regulation 2012, and rules made thereunder or any other criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for any period.
- (i) The application to the grant of permit for the privileges of tapping, production, possession and processing of Neera and

production of value added products shall be made in Form I. On receipt of the application, the competent authority shall verify the application and if the conditions prescribed for grant of permit are found to have been complied with, may issue the permit for the privileges of tapping, production and possession and processing of Sweet Toddy(Neera) and production of value added products in Form II within 15 days. The competent authority may reject the application for reasons to be recorded in writing in 10 days.

- (j) Coconut Producer Society/Coconut Producers Company or Farmer Producers Organizations and individual farmer shall obtain all mandatory clearance/permit from the concerned authority before establishing the Sweet Toddy (Neera) Processing Unit or a cold chain.
- (k) Any Coconut Producer Society/Coconut Producer Company or Farmer Producers Organization shall be given permit only when they set up Sweet Toddy (Neera) Processing Unit or a cold chain.
- (l) The assignment and marking of Coconut trees for tapping shall be done by the High Value Agriculture Development Agency.
- (m) The Permit holder shall engage only Neera technicians for tapping/collection of Sweet Toddy (Neera).
- (n) The technology adopted for extracting, transportation and processing of Sweet Toddy (Neera) shall be as specified and approved by the Department of Agriculture/Coconut Development Board.
- (o) The quality of Neera produced shall be as per the standards adopted by the Department of Agriculture/Coconut Development Board for quality of Neera.
- (p) Applications for grant of permit shall be made at least one month before the commencement of the activity.
- (q) Application for renewal of permit shall be made at least one month before the expiry of permit already granted.
- (r) On receipt of the applications for grant or renewal of permit, the competent authority may require such other particulars as he/she may deem necessary for verification for the particulars furnished by the applicant and also such other inquiries as he/she deems fit. In any case, the Director of Agriculture/competent authority shall take a decision for the

grant of renewal of permit, as the case may be, within 15 days from the date of receipt of application, otherwise it will be deemed approved.

- (s) No Sweet Toddy (Neera) shall be drawn except during the validity of such permit.
- (t) Maximum of 5% of the coconut palms available with the Coconut Producer Society/Coconut Producer Company/FPO/individual farmer will be allowed for tapping for extraction of Sweet toddy (Neera).
- (u) The permit holder or his authorized representatives shall not tap any tree in excess of the number of trees for which he is given permit to tap.
- (v) No tree shall be tapped nor Sweet Toddy (Neera) shall be drawn from any tree or any vessels/receptacles be attached for the purpose, until the trees have been marked by the authorized officer in accordance with these guidelines.
- (w) The permit holder shall be responsible to ensure that Sweet Toddy (Neera) is not converted into Toddy.
- (x) Violation of any of the provisions of these guidelines is an offence under the relevant regulations and is punishable.

5. RENEWAL OF PERMIT

- (a) The competent authority authorized to issue the permit shall be competent to renew the permit issued on payment of annual fees of ₹1000/- or ₹100/- by the applicant as the case may be.

6. SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF PERMIT

If a permit holder or any person in his employment contravenes any of the provision of these guidelines or any regulation in force or the rules made thereunder or the conditions of the permit, the competent authority may suspend or cancel the permit and the permit holder shall not be entitled to claim any compensation for suspension period or for remaining period of the permit.

Provided that, no such Order of suspension or cancellation shall be passed without giving an opportunity of being heard to the permit holder.

Provided further that, in addition to the suspension or cancellation of permit the concerned competent authority may proceed against such permit holder or any person in his employment, in accordance with the relevant rules in force.

7. FINE AND PENALTY

- (a) Whoever manufactures or causes to manufacture Sweet Toddy (Neera) or its value added products in contravention of these guidelines same will be punished under relevant rule/regulation in force.
- (b) The imposition of fine or the cancellation of a permit shall not however reserve the permit holder or his agent from liability of being prosecuted in the event of conversion of Sweet Toddy (Neera) into Toddy against the provisions of the A & N Excise Regulation 2012 and Rules made thereunder.

8. APPEALS

- (a) An appeal against the order of the Competent Authority under these guidelines shall be made to the Secretary (Agriculture) within 30 days from the date of passing of the order.

9. REVIEW OF GUIDELINES

These instructions shall be reviewed as and when the circumstances so warrant with the approval of the competent authority.

By order and in the name of the Lt. Governor
Andaman and Nicobar Islands



22.3.18
(A.K. Das)

Director of Agriculture



Copy to:-

1. The Sr. PS to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, for kind information of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands.
2. The Sr. PS to CS for kind information of the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration.
3. The Adhyaksha, South Andaman/ North & Middle Andaman for kind information.
4. The PS to Secretary (Agri) for kind information of the Secretary (Agri), A & N Administration.
5. The Deputy Commissioner, South Andaman/ North & Middle Andaman/ Nicobar District.
6. The Pramukh, Diglipur/ Mayabunder/ Rangat/ Ferrargunj /Prothrapur/ Little Andaman/ Campbell Bay for kind information.
7. The Joint Director (Agri), South Andaman/ North & Middle Andaman /Nicobar District for information and necessary Action.
8. The Deputy Director (AE), Directorate of Agriculture for information.
9. The Sr. Account Officer (Agri), Directorate of Agriculture for information & necessary action.
10. The Assistant Directors (Agri)/ Soil/AE (FM)/AE (MI), Department of Agriculture for information and necessary action.


 Director of Agriculture
 22.3.18

FORM I

Application for obtaining privileges of tapping, production, possession of Sweet Toddy(Neera)/ production of value added products

1.	Name of the CPS/CPC/FPO/farmer applying the permit	:	
2.	Name and designation of the person authorized by the CPS/CPC/FPO for permit purpose. (a) if the applicant is a CPC, registered under the Companies Act, 2013, registration number with date (copy to be enclosed) (b) If the applicant is FPO, under the Companies Act, 2013, Registration number with date (Copy to be enclosed) (c) If the applicant is CPS, Registration number with CDB	:	
3.	Whether the CPS/CPC/FPO/farmer is convicted of any Excise offence or any criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment.	:	
4.	Whether any Excise arrears pending against the CPS/CPC/FPO/farmer, if so whether it is fully discharged with receipt number and date.	:	
5.	No of Neera technicians employed by the CPS/CPO/FPO/farmer	:	
6.	No of coconut farmers in the CPS/CPC/FPO/farmer with total number of coconut trees available for tapping		
7.	Address of room/building where the applicant intends to store the Sweet toddy(Neera) and value added products		
8.	Recommendation of the Agriculture Department/Coconut Development Board (copy to be enclosed)		

DECLARATION

I/We hereby declare that the information furnished above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place:

Date :

Name and signature of the authorized person of the CPS/CPC/FPO

FORM II

PERMIT FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF TAPPING, PRODUCTION, POSSESSION AND PROCESSING OF SWEET TODDY(NEERA) AND PRODUCTION OF VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS.

I....., the Director of Agriculture(Competent Authority), A & N Administration hereby grant permit under the provision of the “guidelinesto promote tapping, production, possession and processing of sweet toddy (neera) and production of its value added products in A & N Islands”to you.....to tap, produce, possess Sweet Toddy(Neera)/production of value added products from Sweet Toddy(Neera) in wholesale in the building situated as shown in the schedule during the period from the 1st day of April..... to the 31st day of March..... Subject to the following conditions namely:

1. The privilege under this permit includes the privilege of tapping.....palms, production, possession, processing of Sweet Toddy(Neera) and the production of value added products from Neera.
2. The permit holder shall point out to the marking officer, the trees approved for marking without any delay.
3. The permit holder or his authorized representatives shall not tap any tree in excess of the number of trees for which he is granted permit to tap.
4. No trees shall be tapped nor Sweet Toddy(Neera) be drawn from any tree or any pot be attached for the purpose until the trees are marked by the authorized Officer in accordance withthese guidelines.
5. The permit holder shall set up a Neera Processing Unit or a cold chain.
6. Sweet Toddy (Neera) shall be drawn between 6 am to 6 pm.
7. No Sweet Toddy (Neera) drawn under the permit shall be sold to any toddy shop.
8. The permit holder shall maintain day to day true accounts of transaction of such registers as may be prescribed from time to time by the Agriculture Department/HVADA/Coconut Development Board and shall furnish such information and statistics as may be called for by the Agriculture Department/HVADA/Coconut Development Board and the UT Excise Department.
9. The permit holder shall not lease out, sell or otherwise transfer the permit under any circumstances.

SCHEDULE SHOWING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PREMISES OF THE PERMIT
HOLDER

Village	Survey No	North by	East by	South by	West by

Place
Date

Director of Agriculture

