



## **HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD (HPSAMB)**

VIPNAN BHAWAN, KHALINI SHIMLA-02

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### **Policy on utilization of infrastructure during lean marketing season/ off season**

Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board (HPSAMB) and Agricultural Produce Committees (APMCs) have created Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure throughout the State. At present, the organization has presence at more than 100 locations and have also constructed many market yards, vehicle parking spaces, Kisan Bhawans, auction halls, shops, canteens, toilets and bathrooms etc. In addition to this APMCs have large land bank available at prominent locations.

The marketing of agricultural/horticultural commodities are seasonal in nature. There is a particular marketing season for every commodity. During the marketing season, the space and infrastructure is optimally utilized by all the stakeholders, but during the lean season/ off season these resources remains idle and under-utilized. Since, Apple is a major horticultural crop; also thus having great commercial potential in Himachal Pradesh. A number of market yards especially for apple marketing remain functional for 3-4 months only and thereafter it remains under-utilized for lean period of 8-9 Months. Similar is the case in other crops. The APMCs have to incur maintenance cost and other utility costs like electricity and water even when the structure is not put in use. With the increase in number of market yards these costs will be escalated and would cause extra financial burden on APMCs for its maintenance.

In order to make this infrastructure economically sustainable and to meet the demand of local people, a policy need to be framed for alternative use of infrastructure for various cultural, social, exhibitions, sports, and other curricular activities, as has been decided by the Government.

Now in pursuant to the BoM-HPSAMB vide its resolution No. 11 passed in its meeting held on 25.11.2021 has unanimously decided to put in place a policy for alternative use of APMC's infrastructure during lean period to generate avenues for additional income of the APMCs with optimal utilization of its available resources; this policy is framed and notified. The S.O.P. for usage of agricultural marketing infrastructure for other activities shall be as under:

1. The Members of APMCs in its meeting will identify the infrastructure which is to be put on alternative use during the lean marketing season/ off season and would seek approval of the MD, Board in first instance during lean/ off season.
2. In no case, the infrastructure will be given for alternate use prior to one month from commencement of agricultural marketing season. So that major agricultural marketing activities may not suffer.
3. No permanent structure shall be raised on the assets or premises of the APMC. The allottee shall not be allowed for any alteration or modification of structure.



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4. The user of infrastructure shall ensure the cleanliness of premises and infrastructure. After the event, the incharge/Junior Engineer will inspect the site and confirm its cleanliness status. If found un-satisfactory the user shall ensure to clean the site as per instructions of incharge/ JE within a week. Special security for cleanliness/ upkeep shall be obtained and liable to be forfeiter in the event of default.
5. In case of any damage or littering of waste on land and infrastructure, penalty at the rate two time equivalent to the damages shall be recovered which shall be assessed by Junior Engineer of APMC. The user shall liable to pay the same to the Committee within 7 days forthwith.
6. Adequate security, as fixed by the Committee in form of cash/ DD/lien marked FDR in favour of Secretary APMC concerned shall be obtained.
7. The office and other structures like residences, office room, hall, store rooms etc. shall not be offered for alternate usages in any event.
8. The charges for alternative usage must be fixed in Committee meeting reasonably on prevalent market rate and which should not be less than the rates applicable in other government/ semi government organizations like Municipal Corporations, Tourism Department, Forest department etc. In case there is no reference rate, approval of rates shall be obtained from MD HPSAMB. No concession to any individual/organization is permissible.
9. The activities for which the infrastructure can be offered for use are parking of vehicle, marriage functions, social and cultural functions, tourism/adventurous activities, trade fairs, public meetings, conferences, workshops, exhibitions etc. In case of any other activity the permission from MD of HPSAMB shall have to be obtained.
10. All the regulatory conditions like environment, fire, health, forest, municipal corporation and any other shall be complied by the party, using the infrastructure.
11. The acceptance of proposal shall be given on first come, first serve basis. The Secretary APMC shall be authorized to execute the process and matter is to be put in next Committee meeting for its confirmation. The bookings will also be accepted on the web portal of HPSAMB ([www.hpsamb.org](http://www.hpsamb.org))
12. The request from the desirous applicant shall be obtained on standardized format alongwith undertaking to vacate the premises as fixed by the Committee and shall be processed as per the due office procedure.



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13. No Concession on the charges will be permitted in any case.
14. APMC shall make wide publicity for alternative use of offered infrastructure through various media channels.
15. Any other condition depending on local situation, deemed necessary may be stipulated.

( Naresh Thakur, HPAS)

**MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**CUM-MEMBER SECRETARY.**

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Copy is forwarded to the following for favour of information:-

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*6/201*  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
**CUM-MEMBER SECRETARY.**