

State for developing kitchen gardens in schools & hostels

Programme An Extension Of Haritha Haram

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Hyderabad: As part of its efforts to inculcate the habit of growing vegetables and promote their nutritional value among school students, the state government has decided to develop School Nutrition-Kitchen Gardens (SNKG) in all government schools and hostels.

The government issued a circular memo (No. 342) to all district collectors to submit an action plan to implement the programme. The commis-



sioner of youth affairs, tourism and culture said departments such as youth services, horticulture, micro irrigation, education and welfare, DRDA, wardens of hostels, self-help groups, youth clubs and associations in villages would be involved in this endeavour.

According to the order, kitchen gardens and fruit-bearing trees would be developed on the premises of scho-

Departments of youth services, horticulture, micro irrigation, education and welfare, DRDA along with wardens of hostels, self-help groups, youth clubs and associations in villages would be involved in this exercise

ols, ashram schools and BC, SC, ST and minority welfare hostels. Vegetables would be grown even on the terraces and backyards.

"All the collectors have been asked to kickstart SNKG in their respective districts," a senior official said. As part of SNKG, students would do voluntary shramdan during leisure hours or holidays, while SHGs, youth associations, headmasters and

district officials would take up sensitisation and oversee execution.

Senior officials said the programme is an extension of the ongoing Haritha Haram scheme. Rules have been incorporated, making it mandatory to ensure survival of 85% saplings. Ward members and officers would be held responsible for the survival of the saplings.

Commissioner of youth services Mohammed Abdul Azeem said the collectors will have to organise men and material under MGNREGA for taking up works like digging of pits.

"Micro irrigation department will take care of drip irrigation and provide technical expertise to raise kitchen gardens," Azeem said.