

Ordinance Summary

The Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021

- The Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 was promulgated on February 9, 2021. It repeals the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which expired on February 11, 2021. The 2021 Ordinance further extends the provisions of the 2020 Ordinance.
- The 2021 Ordinance amends the Kerala Agricultural Workers’ Act, 1974. The Act: (i) regulates the conditions of work, and (ii) provides for the welfare, of agricultural workers in Kerala. The 2021 Ordinance amends provisions related to contributions to the Agricultural Workers’ Welfare Fund.
- **Contributions to the Fund:** The Act establishes an Agricultural Workers’ Welfare Fund. It provides for contributions to the Fund by certain entities, including: (i) land owners having more than 40 ares of agricultural land, (ii) registered agricultural workers, and (iii) state government. An are is a metric unit of measurement, equal to 100 square metres. The Ordinance amends the amount of contribution to the fund by these entities, as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: Contributions to the Agricultural Workers’ Welfare Fund

Contributing Entity	Contribution under the Act	Contribution under the Ordinance
Land owner holding between 20 Ares and 40 Ares of agricultural land	Nil	50 paise per Are, per annum for the entire land held by the owner
Land owner holding more than 40 Ares of agricultural land	25 paise per Are, per annum for the land held in excess of 40 Ares or part thereof	One rupee per Are, per annum for the entire land held by the owner
Every registered agricultural worker	Five rupees per mensem (month)	20 rupees per mensem (month)
Government (by grant, every year)	An amount equal to the contribution paid by registered agricultural workers in every financial year	25% of the contribution paid by registered agricultural workers in every financial year; limited to a maximum of five rupees per capita

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