

INDIAN SPICE NEWS

A Spices Board India Publication

36th Anniversary Celebrations of Spices Board

Spices Board celebrated its 36th Foundation Day (26th February) on 27 February 2023 and Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India inaugurated the anniversary celebrations. The Board's 36th foundation day celebration was marked by various events and campaigns aimed at promoting the Indian spices sector and increased exports.

Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India), the flagship organization for the development and worldwide promotion of Indian spices, was constituted on 26th February 1987 with the merger of erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council. The Board functions as an international link between Indian exporters and importers abroad and it has been involved in various activities which touch upon every segment of the spices sector.

While inaugurating the 36th Anniversary Celebrations of Spices Board at Kochi, Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India said, "Diversification of export markets and creating Brand India backed by consistent quality in the spices sector will help make India's export of spices more sustainable and resilient. This will give long-term strength to the entire value chain".



Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India with Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary and other officials of Spices Board

As part of its 36th anniversary celebrations, a panel discussion with spice industry leaders and exporters on doubling exports was organised. The panel discussion chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS witnessed active participation of experts from different sectors of the spice industry and representatives of spice exporters' associations. On the sidelines of the panel discussion, a compendium on the key schemes for the spices exporters compiled and prepared by YES Bank and Spices Board was released by Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional



Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India inaugurating the 36th anniversary celebrations of Spices Board

Published by Deputy Director (Marketing), Spices Board, Ernakulam - 682025
on behalf of Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India at Ernakulam 682025.
Editors : Bhawna Jeswani Bhasin and Aneenamol P. S.



Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India with the industry leaders and experts

Secretary and the appeal mechanism designed in the Quality Management System of Spices Board for export of spices was introduced before the stakeholders.

On its 36th Foundation Day, Spices Board also organised a nationwide campaign on 'Clean and Safe Spices' covering more than 20 states/UT to spread the message and awareness on food safety and quality of spices for producing surplus quality spices.

Interacting with the spice industry leaders and exporters, the Additional Secretary opined, "If more value addition happens within the economy, this will make the sector more resilient". He also called for leveraging of technology and public-private partnerships for further growth and development in the spices sector.

Addressing the exporters and other stakeholders at the function, Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary, Spices Board informed that the Board has been strategizing to achieve 10 Bn USD in exports of

spices by 2030 and requested for insights from the stakeholders on key potential and emerging markets, and the key challenges in trade of spices for collective action.



Shri Rajesh Agrawal IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India interacts with the officials of Spices Board



Release of the compendium on key schemes for the spices exporters



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Participants attending the stakeholders consultation workshop

and thus help to boost income of small-scale farmers, empower women and other marginalized (tribal) communities, and support efforts to reduce poverty. It targets four spices viz; Cumin, Fennel (Gujarat and Rajasthan), Coriander (Madhya Pradesh) and Black Pepper (Andhra Pradesh) with the goal of expanding exports of safe and high-quality spices from India to overseas markets. The project is expected to directly benefit up to 1200 smallholder farmers, who rely on farming as their only source of income. Further, the project seeks to introduce an electronic system of linking farmers to exporters, thereby improving traceability through certification to ensure the credibility of these products. Further, the project aims to address the challenges in selected

spices to enable poor, rural households to improve food safety and quality, and benefit from trade opportunities. This will also contribute to improved food safety and consumer health in India and export markets.

On the sidelines of the Project Stakeholders Consultation Workshop, a meeting of the project steering committee was also convened to discuss the key action points under the project, outcomes and the challenges and issues raised by the farmers and other stakeholders during the workshop. The meeting chalked out the future courses of action to be taken under the project.



Participants after the stakeholders consultation workshop



Spices Board and CFTRI Sign MoU to Extend Incubation Facilities to Spices Exporters

Spices Board India and the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Mysuru, Karnataka signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 03 March 2023 to establish incubation facilities for spices with an aim to support and guide startups, exporters, SMEs, entrepreneurs and FPOs in developing innovative products and processes in the spices sector.

Establishment of the incubation facility at CFTRI, Mysuru is expected to support new product and process development in spices besides fostering innovations and technologies for value addition, which may diversify the spices export basket and standardise the processes for innovative products. This initiative will also help open new business/export opportunities boosting the export of spices and spice products from India further.

On signing the MoU, Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary, Spices Board said, "The Board has been strategizing to sustain

India's leadership in global spice trade and the key strategies we focus on are product development, diversification and value addition. The world is changing faster and product diversification has gone minute and finer. The jointly established incubation centre for spices at CFTRI will be an attractive proposition for the spices stakeholders to come up with innovative products and processes".

The identified incubatees will be provided support for a period upto 18 months covering the aspects of office space, technical support, access to relevant equipment, laboratory facilities, resources, knowledge sources, etc. The Board has worked out a pilot scheme to support the incubatees with an assistance of 90 per cent of the cost of project subject to a maximum of Rs 10 lakhs per incubatee during the incubation period. This pilot project has been envisaged to encourage and promote value addition and product diversification to assist the industry's efforts to achieve 10 Bn USD value realisation in spices exports by 2030.



Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary, Spices Board and Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, CFTRI with officials of Spices Board and CFTRI after signing the MoU





Director's Message

Consistency in Quality, Value Addition & Branding for Enhanced Value Realization and Sustainability in Business

In day-to-day life itself, one can easily observe and understand that consistency in quality leads to better business. A crowded tea stall or a crowded hotel happens to be a better place to dine in on many occasions and upon enquiry we can understand that the consistency in taste has made such establishments popular in the area. In the same way, many brands from reputed business establishments have also proved this concept. This fact remains the same in the case of branded products of spices too. We all agree that if one could maintain uniform quality consistently, there is a greater chance of success even in a stiff competitive environment.

There are many FPOs or FPCs emerging in many spice growing areas all over India and there are active FPOs already dealing in trade and export of spices. These FPOs or FPCs can make an advantage if they can consistently maintain the desired product quality and supply. The idea of consistency needs a meticulous plan right from the selection of crop variety, adoption of appropriate package of practices, primary processing and proper packing and safe storage. To maintain the consistency in quality of their agricultural produce, these FPOs and FPCs have to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which include Integrated Pest and Disease Management practices as well. When Good Agricultural Practices are adopted followed by Good Hygienic Practices (GHP), post-harvest processing, transportation, packing and storage, it will definitely lead to better and consistent quality produce. Naturally, desired consistency in quality of products from FPCs or FPOs gives more bargaining power to farmers when they sell their products to export firms who are in search of uniform and consistent quality products to meet out their customers' demand abroad. This results in a win-win situation for both the farmers and exporters.

Value addition:

Another important point to add more value to farming is value addition. This should be one of the prime objectives of any farmer or FPO or FPC. The recent estimate of Spices Board reveals that about 50 per cent of the spices export goes in the form of value-added products. Our aim should be to increase this further to 70 per cent in the near future. Value addition brings in many advantages like:-

- i. Lesser volume of the finished product and increased value of the product after value addition.
- ii. Higher margin for the value-added product compared to the raw materials sold/exported.
- iii. Enhanced logistic efficiency and thereby saves the logistic costs too.



B.Venkateson
Director (Dev) I/C
Spices Board

More number of value-added products in the export basket of a country indicates its higher strength and economic development. Higher end value addition of the goods show increased facility and capacity for processing and manufacturing which caters to increased revenue earning. Considering these, the focus of any exporter should be to export value-added products than raw products or just the primary processed products.

Branding and packaging:

Branding is another important factor which brings in more value and identity to a product. Branding itself reveals the manufacturer's strength and capacity to vouch for the quality and uniqueness of finished products. It is also a matter of traceability and transparency wherein the buyer gets more confidence and more product details from the description of the product.

The manufacturer could also get enhanced margin out of branding and sustainable quality to retain his market share. Keeping the unique identity through branding and additional value factors like GI product, IPM product, organic product, etc., with proper certifications will go a long way for the establishment of products in both domestic as well as in the export market with a premium margin.

Packaging also plays a significant role in enhancing the value and keeping the quality of the produce. If the product is packed in a suitable, convenient pack with attractive design, it will definitely attract the buyer when compared to regular and ordinary packaged products. Hence, branding and better packaging should be given importance for better marketing of the products both in the domestic as well as export markets.

If better branding strategy coupled with attractive packing is adopted by Farmer Producer Companies/ Organizations with consistent product quality as per the consumers' requirement, it will definitely result in long-term benefits to its shareholders. This will be an ideal advantageous situation for both the producers (farmers) as well as end consumers.

Considering these points, the FPOs or any similar organizations dealing with raw materials of agriculture or horticulture commodities in domestic sale and export should adopt such strategies for their long-term benefits and enhanced forex of the country too. Let us try to bring out more value-added products with 'Made in India' mark to retain India as a leading spice processing hub among the other spice producing countries.

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board Divisional Office, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh conducted a quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom at Challan, one of the remote cardamom growing villages of West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh on 02 February 2023.



Participants after the quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom

Stakeholders Meet on Chilli

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh conducted a stakeholders meet on chilli at Bedia mandi, Khargone, Madhya Pradesh on 04 February 2023. A total of 50 stakeholders participated in the meeting and discussed the export opportunity from Bedia, which is a renowned marketplace in Madhya Pradesh for red chilli. The role of Spices Board in export promotion of chilli from Madhya Pradesh was also explained.



Participants attending the stakeholders meet on chilli

Spice Clinic under All India Coordinated Research Projects

A spice clinic programme along with quality improvement training programme was organized by Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), Tadong, Sikkim at Subaneydara, Rongli, Pakyong district on 21 February 2023. Dr T. N. Deka, Scientist-C, ICRI Regional Research Station, Shri P. T. Lepcha, Deputy Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Gangtok and an official from MSME Gangtok attended the programme. In the programme, Dr T. N. Deka, Scientist-C demonstrated the procedure of using bio-capsules of Trichoderma sp, Bacillus sp, and plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) for better plantation management and distributed the same to 12 progressive farmers cultivating ginger and turmeric.



Participants of the spice clinic programme

Growers Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board Divisional Office, Kalimpong, West Bengal conducted a growers training programme on Large Cardamom at Today Bazar, Kalimpong district of West Bengal on 08 February 2023.



Growers training programme on Large Cardamom at Today Bazar, Kalimpong



Training on Preventive Control for Human Food

The Collaborative Training Cell through the Marketing Department of Spices Board has successfully completed a training on preventive control for human food (FSPCA-USA) during 31 January 2023 to 02 February 2023. Around 18 participants, mainly from the spices industry attended the training. The programme was conducted at Spices Board Head Office, Kochi for the first time in physical mode, after completing four online programmes. Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance), Spices Board inaugurated the programme and Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing) presided over the training. Dr Pankaja Panda, Food Safety Officer from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) India office also attended the training.



Participants attending the training on preventive control for human food

Spice Clinic Programme

A spice clinic programme was conducted by Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI) – Regional Research Station, Tadong, Sikkim at middle Tangta area of Kalimpong district, West Bengal on 07 February 2023. During the programme, emphasis was given on the usage of bioagents for management of pests in Large Cardamom and fortification of Farm Yard Manure (FYM) with Trichoderma. Importance of establishing shade in open areas under Large Cardamom cultivation was also discussed. Dr S. S. Bora, Scientist-C, Spices Board; Shri P. T. Lepcha, Deputy Director, Regional Office, Gangtok; Shri J. Das, Assistant Director, and Shri N. Ghatani, Farm Manager, Divisional Office, Kalimpong were present and 23 farmers attended the programme.



Participants of the spice clinic programme

Spices Board in Expo ONE - Organic North East

Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati, Assam participated in the Expo ONE - Organic North East held at the Veterinary College Field in Khanapara, Guwahati during 03 - 05 February 2023. During the event, the Board put up a stall and provided a platform for the spices buyers and sellers for interaction. The event was organised by Sikkim State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd (SIMFED), Government of Sikkim and hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Assam. All the important Indian spices were showcased on the stall. The spices of Northeast India, including GI-tagged spices – Bhut Jolokia (Naga Mircha), Bird's Eye Chilli, Hathei Chilli, Karbi Anglong Ginger, etc., were of the main focus. In addition to spices, spice plants were also displayed on the Board's exhibition stall. Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati has also provided an opportunity to the upcoming enterprises and progressive farmers for showcasing their products. The stall was visited by dignitaries such as Shri Atul Bora, Hon'ble Agricultural Minister, Government of Assam, Shri Ashish Bhutani IAS, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Shri A. L. Gyani IAS, Director (Agriculture), Government of Assam and other senior officers from various government departments. Many FPCs, exporters and traders also visited the Board's stall. Various stakeholders enquired about buyers and sellers in detail. Dr Dwijendra Mohan Barman, Deputy Director, Spices Board delivered a lecture in the interactive session.



A view of the stall setup by Spices Board at Expo ONE - Organic North East



Students' Exposure Visit

Students from Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College, Cumbum, Tamil Nadu visited Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), Myladumpara on 07 February 2023. The team included 22 students and three faculties. Scientists of ICRI, Dr K. Dhanapal (Head of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology Division), Dr K. Pradip Kumar (Head of Crop Improvement Division), Dr M. A. Ansar Ali (Head of Entomology Division), Dr John Jo Varghese (HOD of Agronomy and Soil Science), Dr Manoj Oommen (Agronomy and Soil Science Division), Dr Sudeeran Pradeep Kumar (Biotechnology Division) and Ms Lijini K. R. (Research Associate) delivered lectures on various aspects. After the technical session, students visited laboratories and the field visit was handled by Shri P. G. Shiju (Farm Manager) and Shri Ramraj (Senior Agriculture Demonstrator). The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the students of Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College.



Students and faculties from Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College with officials of ICRI, Myladumpara

An exposure visit of students from MES Mampad College, Malappuram, Kerala was conducted at ICRI Myladumpara on 10 February 2023. The team included 29 students and two faculties. The programme started with a welcome address and Dr John Jo Varghese (HOD of Agronomy and Soil Science) delivered a brief lecture on "Post-harvest technology". After the lecture, the team visited ICRI farm and gained knowledge about the cultivation aspects of cardamom.



Students and faculties of MES Mampadu College, Malappuram with the officials of ICRI, Myladumpara

Students from Mar Basil Vocational Higher Secondary School, Senapathy, Kerala visited ICRI, Myladumpara on 08 February 2023. The team included 53 students and three faculties. Dr K. Dhanapal, HOD (Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology Division) gave the introductory remark about ICRI. Dr K. Pradip Kumar (HOD of Crop Improvement), Dr M. A. Ansar Ali (HOD of Entomology) and Dr John Jo Varghese (HOD of Agronomy and Soil Science) delivered lectures on various aspects. The book on Package of Practices of Small Cardamom was distributed to students and teachers. After the technical session, the students visited Plant Pathology and Entomology Laboratory and gained knowledge on bio-agent and EPN production.



Students from Mar Basil Vocational Higher Secondary School, Senapathy with officials of ICRI, Myladumpara

Students pursuing B.Sc. Biochemistry at Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu visited ICRI, Myladumpara, Idukki on 10 February 2023. The team included 39 students and four faculties. During the programme, Dr K. Dhanapal (HOD of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology) gave the introductory remarks about ICRI and delivered a lecture on "The use of spices as phytomedicines". After the technical session, the team visited Agronomy and Soil Science division, Plant Pathology division and Crop Improvement Laboratories and interacted with the scientists. The students also visited ICRI farm and gained knowledge on cultivation aspects of cardamom.



Students and faculties from Justice Basheer Ahmed Sayeed College for Women with the officials of ICRI, Myladumpara



Traders Training Programme

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh organized a traders training programme at Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), Ashoknagar, Madhya Pradesh for spice traders on 09 February 2023. A total of 26 stakeholders participated.

Another traders training programme for spice traders at Guna, Madhya Pradesh was organised on 12 February 2023. Around 23 stakeholders attended the training programme.



Participants attending the traders training programme

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Cardamom

Spices Board Field Office, Batlagundu, Tamil Nadu conducted a quality improvement training programme on cardamom at Thadiyankudisai zone. Shri Kanagadhilepan K., Assistant Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur explained the developmental schemes of the Board to the participating farmers. Shri Kanagadhilepan K. also delivered a lecture on 'Importance of quality of cardamom and cultivation practices'. Around 45 farmers participated in the programme.



Dignitary speaking during the quality improvement training programme

Orientation Training Programme for Managers of Kerala Forest Development Corporation

A five days orientation training programme for managers of Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC), Kottayam was conducted at ICRI, Myladumpara, Idukki, Kerala during 30 January 2023 – 03 February 2023. Eight officials from KFDC participated in the training programme. Dr K. Dhanapal (HOD Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology) delivered the welcome address and introductory remarks. A technical session on 'Crop improvement' was handled by Dr K. Pradip Kumar, Scientist-C, ICRI, Myladumpara and explained the "Varieties of Small Cardamom", Dr Sudheeran Pradeep Kumar, (Biotechnology Division) delivered a lecture on "Tissue culture techniques in spices". After the lecture, the managers were taken to the Crop Improvement and Biotechnology laboratories and explained various activities.

On the second day, during the technical session, Dr M. A. Ansar Ali, Scientist-C explained the 'Major insect pest in Small Cardamom', Dr P. Thiyagarajan, Scientist-C explained the 'Management of minor pests in Small Cardamom' and handled 'Field diagnosis of insect pest in Small Cardamom'. The use of biocontrol agents and EPN production techniques were explained by the scientists of the division.

On the third day, Dr K. Dhanapal, Scientist-C explained the 'Management of rot diseases in Small Cardamom', Dr Shadanaika, Scientist-C delivered a lecture on 'Viral diseases in Small Cardamom' and Dr K. A. Saju, Scientist-C gave a lecture on 'Nursery management and foliar disease in Small Cardamom' and 'Application of biocontrol agents for the management of diseases in Small Cardamom'. Later, a laboratory visit was organized and bio-agent production was explained in detail.

During the technical session on the fourth day, Dr John Jo Varghese (HOD of Agronomy and Soil Science) explained the 'Quality planting material production', 'Improved agro-techniques in Small Cardamom' and 'Collection and analysis of soil sample for judicious application of fertilizer'. Dr Manoj Oommen, Scientist-C explained the 'Fertilizer application in Small Cardamom'.

On the last day, Dr John Jo Varghese (Scientist in-charge) spoke about the 'Post-harvest techniques in Small Cardamom' and organised a field visit for the managers. A plenary session was also arranged.



Managers of Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) with officials of ICRI, Myladumpara



Quality Improvement Training Programme on Garlic

Spices Board Field Office, Batlagundu, Tamil Nadu conducted a training programme for hill garlic growers of Upper Palani (Thadiyankudisai zone). During the programme, Shri Purusothaman, President, Vellagavi shared his experience in garlic and other spices cultivation. Shri Murugan, Chairman, Agamalai Farmers Producing Company explained the need, essential features and different types of FPOs in the session. Shri S. Senthilkumaran, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board, Bodinayakanur explained the important varieties of hill garlic, fertilizer application, plant protection techniques and harvesting/processing methods. Forty-three farmers participated in the programme.



Quality improvement training programme on garlic organised by Spices Board Field Office, Batlagundu, Tamil Nadu

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Turmeric and Black Pepper

A quality improvement training programme on turmeric and black pepper was organised at Baniargool, Karimganj district, Assam under Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati, Assam on 13 February 2023. Around 61 farmers attended the training programme. Technical sessions were handled by Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala.

Another quality improvement training programme on turmeric and black pepper was organised at Bagargool, Karimganj district, Assam under Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati on 14 February 2023. Total 53 farmers attended the training programme.



Glimpses of the quality improvement training programme on turmeric and black pepper

Market Linkage Programme

Spices Board Regional Office, Jodhpur, Rajasthan conducted a stakeholders meeting cum market linkage programme focusing on World Spice Congress 2023 and recent trends in spice trade in Jeera Mandi on 20 January 2023. The main objective of the programme was to get maximum registration for World Spice Congress 2023 and to share the recent trends in spice trade. Around 50 stakeholders participated in the programme. The Mandi Secretary, Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), Jodhpur, was the Chief Guest. The meeting was presided over by Shri Purushottam Mundadji, Chairman, Jeera Mandi. Shri M. Y. Honnur, Deputy Director, Spices Board extended the welcome. Dr Shrishail K. Kulloli, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board, Jodhpur spoke about marketing trends in spices.



Dr Shrishail K. Kulloli, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board speaking at the market linkage programme.

Masters Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board Divisional Office, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh conducted a masters training programme on Large Cardamom for the officials of the Horticulture and Agriculture Department in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh on 16 February 2023. Shri Hento Karga, Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the training programme and attended the technical session and interacted with the participants.



Shri Hento Karga, Deputy Commissioner speaking at the masters training programme



Farmers Training Programme on

Water Saving Techniques and

Value Addition in Spice Crops

Quality Improvement Training

Farmers Training Programme



Quality Improvement Training Programme on Pepper

Spices Board Field Office, Sakleshpur, Karnataka conducted a quality improvement training programme on pepper at Rayarakoppal in Hassan district on 21 February 2023. The training programme was inaugurated by Shri H. D. Gopal, President, Coffee Planters Association along with a progressive pepper grower. Shri Ramesha B. K., Farm Manager, Spices Board Field Office, Sakleshpur welcomed the gathering. Shri S. S. Biju, Assistant Director, Spices Board Divisional Office, Madikeri informed about the relevant schemes for black pepper. Technical sessions during the programme were handled by Dr K. N. Harsha, Scientist, ICRI, Donigal, Sakleshpur. A total of 50 farmers attended the training programme.



A glimpse of the quality improvement training programme on pepper

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board Divisional Office, Tadong, Sikkim organised a quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom at Subanedara, Rongli, Pakyong district, East Sikkim on 21 February 2023.

Another quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom was conducted at Dokchin, North Regu on 22 February 2023 under Spices Board Divisional Office, Tadong, Sikkim.



Participants of the quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom

Buyer Seller Meet for Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office cum Extension Centre, Nizamabad, Telangana conducted a Buyer Seller Meet for Turmeric with focus on Telangana on 22 February 2023 at Nizamabad to strengthen market linkages and promote exports. The BSM aimed at giving accessibility to farmers and farmer producer groups for better price realization of their produce.

Inaugurating the BSM, Shri Narsing Das, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Nizamabad, observed that the region is known for the cultivation of turmeric and there is scope for enhancing exports from the region by focusing on processing and value addition in the crop. He also suggested that guidance may be given to farmers for improving the quality of turmeric. Dr B. Mahender, Scientist explained the turmeric scenario in Telangana and quality requirements for export of turmeric. Shri Sandeep, Assistant Manager, NeML and the team briefed about e-Spice Bazaar. Shri Yashwanth Kumar, District Resource Person briefed about the ODOP scheme and requested all participants to avail benefit of the scheme. The Deputy Director briefed activities of the Board for farmers and exporters.

The buyers and sellers actively participated in the interactive session and the buyers informed about the requirement indicating the varieties and quantity and sellers have informed about the variety they have grown and annual supply capacity. A total of 260 participants attended the event.



Inauguration of the buyer seller meet



Participants attending the buyer seller meet



Quality Improvement Training Programme

Spices Board Divisional Office, Mangan, Sikkim organised a quality improvement training programme at Lingthem, Upper Dzongu on 22 February 2023 for indigenous tribal farmers of reserve area.



Participants after the quality improvement training programme

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Mint

Spices Board Regional Office, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh conducted a quality improvement training programme on mint at Thakurain Kheda, Raebareli district, Uttar Pradesh on 24 February 2023.

Another quality improvement training programme on mint was organised at Faresitpur Gadiya Panchayat, Barabanki on 25 February 2023.



Participants after the quality improvement training programme on mint



A glimpse of the quality improvement training programme on mint

Spice Clinic Programme

Spice clinic, field visit and interaction programmes were conducted at Timburbung, Soreng district, Sikkim on 27 February 2023. Dr T. N. Deka, Scientist-C, ICRI Regional Research Station, Tadong, Mr Vishwa Bhushan Joshi, Field Officer, Spices Board Field Office, Gezying and Mr Mahindra Dahal, FPO President of Soreng Sunriser's Organic Producers Cooperative Society Limited, Soreng, Sikkim participated in the programmes along with 24 progressive farmers. Large Cardamom fields were visited and interacted with the growers on scientific cultivation of cardamom in general and water management during the stress period in particular. The facilities for cold storage and post-harvest management developed by the FPO under Mission Organic Value Chain Development at Timburbung, Soreng district were also monitored.

Another spice clinic programme cum discussion on Large Cardamom capsule gradation was organized at Radhu-khandu, Gezying, Sikkim on 28 February 2023 for the FPO (Sanku Radhukhandu Farmers Organic Producer Co-Operative Society) officials and members. Dr T. N. Deka, Scientist-C, ICRI Regional Research Station, Tadong, Mr Vishwa Bhushan Joshi, Field Officer, Spices Board Field Office, Gezying and Mr N. K. Bhattarai, CEO of the FPO participated in the programme along with FPO members and 10 progressive farmers. During the programme, Large Cardamom fields were visited, and scientific cultivation of Large Cardamom was discussed in general. The programme concluded with an interaction on raising of sucker nurseries and capsule gradation.



Participants after the spice clinic programme

Visit of Officials of Irrigation Management Training Institute

Five faculties from the Irrigation Management Training Institute, Tamil Nadu visited ICRI, Myladumpara on 16 February 2023. Scientists of ICRI gave an introductory remark and also organised field visit for the visitors.



Scientists interacting with the IMTI officials



Mobile Spice Clinic

A mobile spice clinic programme was organised by ICRI, Myladumpara and Spices Board Field Office, Kumily, Idukki, Kerala in Valadi and Springvalley areas on 02 February 2023. Dr M. A. Ansar Ali, and Dr K. A. Saju (Scientists) attended the programme as resource persons and visited six cardamom fields. They discussed about the diseases occurring in summer and recommended the control measures for viral diseases, pest and borer attacks, etc. Proper management of shade for cardamom was also recommended. A total of six farmers were benefitted by this programme.



A view of the field visit

Orientation Training Programme for Newly Joined Spices Research Trainees

Five days orientation training programme for newly joined Spices Research Trainees at ICRI, Myladumpara was organised during 20-25 February 2023. Dr K. Dhanapal, Scientist - C delivered the welcome address and introductory remarks about ICRI. Dr John Jo Varghese, Scientist - C took a class on quality planting material production and collection and analysis of soil sample for judicious application of fertilizer. Dr Manoj Oommen, Scientist -C explained the nutrient management studies in Small Cardamom. Dr K. Dhanapal, Scientist-C, ICRI explained the management of rot diseases in Small Cardamom. Dr M. A. Ansar Ali, Scientist took a class on major insect pests in Small Cardamom. Dr K. Pradip Kumar, Scientist explained the varieties of Small Cardamom. Dr Shadanaika, Scientist explained the viral diseases of Small Cardamom. Dr S. Pradip Kumar delivered a talk on tissue culture techniques in spices. Dr P. Thiyagarajan, Scientist delivered a talk on management of minor pests in Small Cardamom. After each technical session, a field visit was organised by the respective division and practical skills on cardamom was given to all Spice Research Trainees.



Dr Shadanaika, Scientist C, ICRI lecturing on viral diseases in cardamom

Students' Exposure Visit

First year B-Ed students from JSS College, Sakleshpur, Karnataka visited ICRI, Sakleshpur as part of their exposure visit. The Scientist in-charge briefed the research activities of Spices Board and general classes about spices crops were given by Spice Research Trainees.



Students from JSS College, Sakleshpur at ICRI, Sakleshpur

Spice Clinic at Todey in Kalimpong District

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Tadong, Sikkim organized a spice clinic programme at Todey in Kalimpong district where 16 farmers participated. Dr S. S. Bora, Scientist-C, ICRI Regional Research Station, Tadong emphasized on adoption of good agricultural practices in Large Cardamom. Shri P. T. Lepcha, Deputy Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Gangtok informed the demand for good quality cardamom and the premium price it fetches when cured in ICRI *Bhatti* over local *bhattis*. Shri Jugal Das, Assistant Director and Shri N. Ghatani, Farm Manager, Spices Board Divisional Office, Kalimpong provided information on various developmental schemes of Spices Board.



A view of the group discussion organised as part of the spice clinic



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