

INDIAN SPICE NEWS

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Hon'ble Additional Secretary's Visit and Interaction at Spices Board, Kochi

Shri Amardeep S. Bhatia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India visited Spices Board Headquarters in Kochi on 19 April 2023. Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary and Directors of Spices Board, welcomed the Additional Secretary to Spices Board.

Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research & Finance), Spices Board India presented the welcome address during the interactive session. She also gave a brief overview of Spices Board, its inception and activities.

A video on Spices Board's journey so far was presented along with a video titled "G20 – The Spice Connect" which detailed India's spice trade with G20 member countries and the EU.

Shri Nithin Joe, Deputy Director (Planning & Coordination), Spices Board India made a presentation on the activities and functions of Spices Board.

Smt. Antara Roy from YES Bank made a presentation on 'Trade analysis of India's position in global spice trade.' Dr Joji Mathew, Director (Development), Spices Board India, presented the vote of thanks.

Apart from the officials of Spices Board Head Office at Kochi, Shri Pradeep Shrivastava, Smt. Shikha Bhatt and Smt. Titiksha Kanti from YES Bank also attended the session. The Additional Secretary also visited the spice processing units of M/s. Arjuna Natural Pvt. Ltd and M/s. AVT McCormick Ingredients Pvt. Ltd.



Shri Amardeep S. Bhatia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, evaluating the products of Flavourit Spice Trading Ltd. (FSTL), an enterprises of Spices Board.



Shri Amardeep S. Bhatia, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India with the officials of Spices Board during the interactive session

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Buyer Seller and Spices Park Investors Meet Organized

A Buyer Seller Meet was organized on 20 April 2023 at Spices Park, Mawan, Guna, Madhya Pradesh, which was attended by 250 participants including 80 exporters and traders, 100 farmers and 12 FPO representatives from different states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board. Shri Sandeep Kumar Chaurasia, Assistant Director, Spices Board explained the activities of the Board and Shri Vinay Singh, FAO representative detailed the objectives of the project 'Strengthening the spice value chain in India and improving market access through capacity building and innovative interventions' implemented by Spices Board in collaboration with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) under World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), India. Shri B. A. Gudade, Scientist-C and Officer-in-charge, Spices Board, Guna welcomed the participants.

Officials from the Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department, Industry Department, Cooperative Department, FIEO, ECGC, Krishi Vigyan Kendra and Agricultural University provided information on the activities of their respective departments and export promotion and advanced agricultural practices.

The programme concluded with the summing up and address by Shri Goutham Sethiya, Assistant, Spices Board. Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board and Shri Vinay Singh, FAO representative also visited the STDF project village in Gulwada and interacted with farmers.



Dignitaries during the buyer-seller meet





Mobile Spice Clinic Programme

A mobile spice clinic programme was conducted at Lower Palani Hills, Kodaikanal taluk, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu by Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara, Idukki on 06 April 2023. The team consisted of Dr K. Dhanapal, Scientist-C (HOD of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology), Dr Ansar Ali, Scientist-C and Dr S. Mohan, Farm Manager. They visited around eight cardamom plantations and collected samples affected by various insect pests and diseases in KC Patty, Kuppamalpatti, Nadupatty, Aadalur, Peraiyur, Pallathukalvai and Nallur Kadu. Around 38 soil samples were collected for analysis of micro and macronutrients for the judicious application of fertilizers and for the isolation of biocontrol agents. After the field visit, an interaction between scientists and farmers was conducted in Pachalur. Dr K. Dhanapal and Dr Ansar Ali, Scientists, ICRI interacted with the farmers and clarified their doubts about improved cultivation practices in Small Cardamom and black pepper. Dr S. Mohan, Farm Manager explained about various schemes of Spices Board to the farmers. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks of Shri Dhamodhar Raja, a progressive planter from Pachalur.



A view of the field visit



Participants attending the spice clinic programme at Lower Palani Hills

ICRI, Myladumpara, Idukki organised another mobile spice clinic programme at Puttady on 29 March 2023. Scientists from ICRI, Dr K. A. Saju, Dr Manoj Oommen and Dr P. Thiyagarajan along with an official from the Development Department were the resource persons. During the field visit, the team addressed the diseases affecting cardamom reported by farmers and gave instructions for the management of such diseases. Diseased specimens were collected for laboratory studies. A total of seven farmers were benefited by this programme.



A view of the field visit at Puttady

Another spice clinic programme was organised by ICRI, Myladumpara, Idukki at Cumbummettu, Idukki, Kerala on 20 April 2023. The team consisted of Dr Shadanaika, Scientist-C (Plant Pathology), Dr Manoj Oommen, Scientist-C (Agronomy and Soil Science) and Dr P. Thiyagarajan, Scientist-C (Entomology) and they visited around six cardamom plantations. They discussed about the diseases occurring in summer seasons and identified Fusarium, Chenthal and Anthracnose diseased plants. Integrated pest and disease management and judicious application of fertilizers were explained to the farmers.



A view of the field visit organised as part of the spice clinic programme at Cumbummettu





