

INDIAN SPICE NEWS

A Spices Board India Publication

G20: 3rd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting in Kevadia, Gujarat

After the successful completion of two Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meetings, the 3rd meeting took place during 10–12 July 2023 in Kevadia, Gujarat. The three-day meeting was attended by more than 75 delegates from G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organisations. The focus of the meeting was to build consensus on accomplishing action-oriented proposals put forward by the Indian Presidency on global trade and investment-related issues.

oriented concrete proposals on the priority issues of (i) Trade for Growth & Prosperity, (ii) Resilient Trade and GVCs, (iii) Integrating MSMEs in World Trade, (iv) Logistics for Trade and (v) WTO Reforms.

These proposals relate to developing High-level Principles for the Digitalization of Trade Documents, Action Plan to Create Meta Information Interface for MSMEs, Generic Mapping Framework for GVCs, G20 Regulatory Dialogue and preparing a Compendium on best practices for Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). During the third TIWG meeting, the Presidency sought for consensus-building among the G20 member countries for eventual adoption of these proposals.

The outcomes of the 3rd TIWG meeting would pave the way for building trusted collaboration and understanding of the challenges being faced by the world in accelerating global trade and investment. It will also assist in developing tools that could leverage existing opportunities to make growth inclusive and transparent, resonating with Indian Presidency's G20 theme—Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

As part of the 3rd TIWG meeting, an exhibition on PM GatiShakti was organised besides the experience zones set up by Spices Board, Coffee Board, Tea Board and APEDA. The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Shri Sunil Bhartwal, Secretary, Commerce.

The experience zone set up by Spices Board gave thrust to various seed

spices grown in Western India including Cumin, Fennel, Fenugreek, Ajwain, Coriander, Celery, etc. In addition to the seed spices, different varieties of spices grown across the length and breadth of the country and their value added products were displayed. M/s PJM Exports, Unjha and M/s BC Foods co-participated along with the Board at the event and showcased their wide product range available for exports.



Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance), Spices Board along with dignitaries near the Experience Zone setup by Spices Board

On the first day of the meeting, a seminar on Trade Infrastructure was organised which discussed the Role of Logistics in Expanding Global Value Chains (GVCs) and MSMEs Going Global: Integration with GVCs.

Based on the opinions/suggestions expressed by the G20 member/invitee countries in the discussions during the first and second TIWG meetings, the Indian Presidency formulated action-



Director's Message

Food Safety of Spices and Herbs along Global Food Chains

Spices and herbs have historical importance and were once the source of great power and wealth. They have long been associated with human culture, and these condiments have been used to flavour our foods since ancient times. Arab traders established early spice trade routes. The Greeks expanded the trade routes to the Mediterranean. The Roman Empire had great control and power with the spice trade. Seafaring nations like Portugal, Spain, Holland, and Britain entered the lucrative spice trade and fought many wars to retain power. Moreover, as they represent highly valued ingredients, spices have affected human activities such as exploration and trade, and thus, indirectly impacted on human history.

Though spices and herbs are consumed in minor quantities, their use in varied range of foods and food products, especially in ready to eat (RTE) foods, makes assessment of their intake an important topic representing a unique segment within the food sector. Similarly, Nutraceutical and Pharmaceutical sectors also use a wide range of spices owing to their health benefits and as immunity boosters, especially during the COVID and post-COVID period.

Like the vast majority of marketed goods, spices and herbs are highly commercialised these days. Within the globalised systems, where the source of cultivation and harvesting may be quite distant from the points of consumption, spice products reach the consumers through a series of long and complex food commodity chains. Further, timelines from harvest of raw material till consumption can be years which often results in hardly transparent product pathways of spices. Consequently, food safety of herbs and spices becomes an issue of high priority to protect the health of the consumers.

Spices and herbs are distributed mostly in their dried, low water activity formats and are associated with very complex distribution channels. Hence, specific concerns regarding food safety apply to these particular commodities.

Though a minor quantity of spice is used for consumption, the role of quality standard and food safety is very important. Spices are valuable commodities for which China, the United States of America (USA) European Union (EU), Middle East, etc., have formulated and implemented required standards



Dr A. B. Rema Shree
Director,
Spices Board

at international level. These standards are also influenced by specifications set by major spice importing countries. Cleanliness, ash level, acid insoluble ash, volatile oil content, moisture content, water activity, pesticide level, mycotoxin level, bulk and particle size are some common tests that contribute to setting up the range of international standards. For instance, Salmonella is one of the major pathogens of public health concern in spices and fumigation with ethylene oxide and irradiation processes were followed with specified doses to maintain the quality of spices. In recent years, the EU has banned ethylene oxide treatment and replaced it with heat treatment, i.e., high-pressure steam.

New trends in international market are emerging frequently. Stringent health and food laws exist in all developed countries. These countries often revise such laws in the light of new scientific findings. For instance, it might so happen that monitoring to find out the presence of certain disease-causing organisms in food stuffs is made mandatory all on a sudden. Similarly, changes are often made in the tolerance levels of pesticide residues. These countries are also steadily bringing down the permissible levels of other impurities. Thus, scientific and technological advancements brings forth new challenges in the export trade. The health and food laws which are increasingly becoming stringent reflect the grave concern of the respective government for the safety and welfare of their people.

To promote the capability of the food sector and the society, to detect, respond and to prevent bio-threats and to achieve the food safety goals, data has been generated thematically which included general considerations, issues of sampling, drying and dehydration method, chemical and microbial contamination, and entire supply chain and societal aspects.

For ensuring food safety, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has established many testing protocols, and examples of some standards include

moisture (ISO 939), volatile oil (ISO 6571), and total ash (ISO 928). Some other tests which are spice-specific include piperine level, colour values, capsaicin content, Scoville heat units, curcumin content, etc. The American Standards has fixed specifications for every spice regarding foreign matter, insects, excreta and any visible mould.

Similarly, the Codex Alimentarius is a collection of international food standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) to protect the consumers' health and ensure fair practices in the food trade. The CAC was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1963, and today, it has more than 180 member countries and more than 200 intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations as observers. The Codex Alimentarius has become the global reference point for consumers, food producers, national food control agencies, and the international food trade. India is proud to have provided global leadership in developing global quality standards for spices. India pioneered the efforts which resulted in formation of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) under the Codex Alimentarius Commission of the FAO and WHO in 2014. This committee is chaired by India and Spices Board serves as the Secretariat. The CCSCH has successfully developed global quality standards for 11 spices.

Certification agencies and quality testing labs are other important check points to protect standards, prevent all sorts of contaminations and also to improve sanitary and phytosanitary issues. Spices Board has set up eight state-of-the-art Quality Evaluation Laboratories (QEL) for pesticide residue analysis and microbial food safety in spices and spice products. The Laboratory at Kochi is certified by British Standards Institution, U.K. for the ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System since 1997, ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System since 1999 and Accredited under the National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) (under the ISO/IEC: 17025:2005) in 2004. In all the QELs, testing facilities are available for raw spices and value-added products and other consignment which is being exported to different destinations. Country specific mandatory testing is being carried out for each export consignment to prevent RAASAF and also to protect the food safety parameter.

Spices Board has been providing region wise Quality Improvement Trainings and campaigns on 'Clean and safe spices' to sensitise for creating an awareness to all

stakeholders on the risk, corrective actions, and good practises to be followed at various stages of production, processing, value- addition and export of spices. To improve the marketing channel of these clean and safe commodity, buyer seller meets are being conducted to connect with the exporters to maintain the traceability of clean and safe spice supply chain.

Quality requirements of food for exports are becoming very stringent. Developed countries are the major markets for our food exports. Countries like the USA, Japan, Canada, Australia and the European countries have their own stringent food laws and regulations. The main objective of the laws is to protect the health and safety of their citizens. They allow import of food materials only when they conform to the provisions of their food laws and regulations.

A new consciousness is growing all over the world about disease-causing organisms, poisonous substances, allergens and impurities. Parallel to this, the degree of excellence which consumers expect from foods is also growing. Exporting countries are thus constrained to maintain quality standards set by the importing countries. According to projections made by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, food exports will register significant growth in the next decade. Increasing our share in this expanding market offers opportunity as well as a challenge.

India exports spices mostly to developed countries like the USA, UK, Germany, other European Countries, Japan, Canada, etc. These countries have very stringent food laws and regulations to ensure that foods which include spices, are safe, whole - some and produced under sanitary and hygienic conditions. Hence spices exported into these countries should be free from bacterial contamination, mold, mycotoxins, harmful chemicals including pesticide residues and other pollutants, insect infestation and filth contributed by animals, insects or insanitary conditions in the farm, warehouse, package or carrier. The concern of the importing countries about food safety and quality is understandable as several cases of foodborne diseases and food poisoning occur in these countries as a result of consuming contaminated food.

The vision of Indian spice industry is to become the international processing hub and premier supplier of clean, safe and value- added spices and spice products to the industrial and retail segments of the global spices market. The Indian spice industry aims at clean and safe spices exports worth 10 billion US\$ by 2030. To achieve this target, a strenuous effort is required in the supply chain from farm to consumers.

Spices Board in GI Fair India 2023

Spices Board participated in the 2nd edition of GI Fair India 2023 held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida Expressway, Uttar Pradesh during 20-24 July 2023 along with GI authorized users of spices /farmers. It was organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, supported by the Ministries of Commerce & Industry, Textiles; CIPAM-Cell for IPR Promotion and Management; Geographical Indications Registry Department and Controller General of PD TM. The event was inaugurated by Smt. Darshana V. Jardosh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles. Present on the occasion were, Mr Dileep Baid, Chairman, EPCH; Dr Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, IEM; Shri Raj Kumar Malhotra, Immediate Past Chairman-EPCH, Mr R. K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH; and Committee of Administration Members, EPCH. Mr R. K. Verma, Executive Director, EPCH informed, "India GI Fair aims to make business sense in a unique way. It is a place to broaden one's horizons with unique products as well as crafts. Here one can see and source India's best nurtured treasures, traditions and rarities. Curated with an ambition to take these to the world markets, this show offers buyers, an opportunity to carve their niche too." The fair also included theme areas highlighting GI clusters & hubs, a Live demonstration of GI products, Knowledge seminar on Introduction to Export Business, Unlocking Packaging Convenience for Export Target Markets, Enriching Panel discussion on GI-tagged products as an effective tool for the promotion of traditional products & produces, on the spot quiz contest for visitors, Award Ceremony etc.

Besides exhibitors from the several states and union territories of India, organizations like Tea Board India; Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority; Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO); Uttarakhand Handloom and Handicraft Development Council (UHHDC); Uttarakhand Organic Commodities Board; Goa State Council for Science & Technology, Government of Goa and many others also participated in the fair. Spices Board put up a pavilion with a display of spices of India, especially the GI-tagged spices, along with space for participating farmers to showcase their produce and zones for networking with potential buyers. There was also a display of generic samples of spices as well as samples of Flavourit Spices Trading Ltd (an enterprise of Spices Board). The Board's officials attended a seminar on 'Introduction to Export Business: Basics, Opportunities and Challenges' and 'Enhancing User Experience and Accessibility by Unlocking Packaging Convenience for Export Target Markets'. Shri Ravindran J., Record Keeper, Spices Board and Dr Kuldeep Rai, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board represented the Board in the event. The GI Fair India closed with a Valedictory Function graced by Dr Rajani Kant (Padamshri), Executive Director, Human Welfare Association, Varanasi as Chief Guest. Spices Board received an Institutional Award for participation.



Smt. Darshana V. Jardosh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles at Spices Board's pavilion

Spices Board in Global Food Regulators Summit 2023

Spices Board participated in Global Food Regulators Summit 2023, organised by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi during 20-21 July 2023. The summit is an endeavour of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) to create a global platform of food regulators to exchange perspectives on strengthening food safety systems and regulatory framework across the food value chain as a cohesive approach.

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 in the presence of Shri Narendra Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Dr Bedu Ram Bhusal, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel and Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Ministers of State for Health and Family Welfare were also present on the occasion as special guests.

Various experts from all over the world participated in the Global Food Regulators Summit, which marked a significant step forward in promoting international cooperation, knowledge sharing and cross-learning to create a safer and more sustainable global food system. The shared commitment and expertise exhibited during the summit will undoubtedly drive positive change and safeguard the well-being of consumers worldwide. The discussion and outcomes of the sessions have laid a strong foundation for collective action in tackling regulatory challenges and ensuring the well-being of consumers worldwide. Spices Board participated in the Global Food Regulators Summit and showcased the strength of the Board in terms of regulating food safety and quality in the spices sector and also the Board's testing and certification facility. Dr Dinesh Singh Bisht, Scientist-C, Spices Board and Shri Gaurav Nim, Senior Clerk, Spices Board represented the Board in the event.



Visitors at the stall put up by Spices Board in Global Food Regulators Summit 2023

Students' Exposure Visit

As part of the study tour programme, students pursuing B. Sc Agriculture (Honours) at Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Pollachi, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur, Tamil Nadu on 03 July 2023. General activities and developmental schemes of the Board, functioning of cloud based e-auction system, post-harvest technologies/processing of cardamom and marketing and export strategies were briefed to the students. Shri Simata Saikia, Deputy Director, Spices Board; Shri S. Senthil Kumaran, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board; Shri Ranganathan, Assistant Director (Marketing), Spices Board and Shri Kanagadhileepan, Assistant Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur handled various technical sessions.



Students of Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Pollachi with the officials of Spices Board at Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur

As part of the study tour programme, 132 students and faculty members from Aravindhar Agricultural Institute of Technology (Affiliated to TNAU), Kalasapakkam, Tiruvannamalai district, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur on 21 July 2023. General activities, functioning of the Board, importance of post-harvest technology, value addition in spices, cloud based e-auction for Small Cardamom, promotion of GI spices, quality aspects, export oriented spice production etc., were explained to the students. Shri S. Senthil Kumaran, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board coordinated the students' visit.



Students and faculties of Aravindhar Agricultural Institute of Technology at Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur

Spices Board in the National Conference cum Buyer Seller Meet on Agri-Horticultural Crops of Tripura

Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala, Tripura participated in the National Conference cum Buyer Seller Meet on Agri-Horticultural Crops of Tripura organised by the Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Tripura in collaboration with APEDA at Pragna Bhawan, Agartala during 03-04 July 2023.



Glimpses of the National Conference cum Buyer Seller Meet

Training Programme on "Documentation Process for IndGAP Certification"

A three-day training programme on Documentation Process for IndGAP Certification was organised by Spices Board during 04-06 July 2023 at the Training Centre, KADS PCL, Thodupuzha, Kerala in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations under STDF funded project, in linkage with the NGO, FOARD Kerala. The programme aimed to capacitate extension officials and stakeholders from India on certification and its application in the field to strengthen the spices supply chain in the country to meet the demand for hygienic and safe spices for export.



Glimpses of the training programme

Awareness Meet on Establishing Cardamom Cluster

Spices Board Field Unit, Bodinayakanur, Tamil Nadu in association with the Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ITCOT) organised an Awareness Meet on Establishing Cardamom Cluster in Theni district at the Seminar Hall, Spices Board, Bodinayakanur. Shri Sivakumar from ITCOT, Erode briefed the following cluster schemes and their benefits.

I. SFURTI - Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries

II. MCDP - Micro Cluster Development Programme

III. PMEGP, UYEGP and NEEDS scheme.

Shri Simanta Saikia, Deputy Director, Spices Board explained the scope and importance of formation of cardamom cluster. Shri S. Senthil Kumaran, Senior Field Officer and Shri K. Kanagadhileepan, Assistant Director, Spices Board briefed on the advantages of cardamom cluster, importance of integration of farmers, traders, exporters, women self-help groups and entrepreneurs in the cluster formation. Dr S. Mohan and Shri P. Bose, Farm Managers, Spices Board attended the training. About 40 farmers including representatives of FPOs and other stakeholders participated in the awareness programme.



Dignitary speaking at the awareness programme

Farmers' Study Tour cum Exposure Visit

Under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme, about 20 farmers and officials from the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur on 12 July 2023. General activities, cultivation, processing, value addition of Small Cardamom and Black Pepper, functioning of cloud based e-auction etc., were briefed to the participants. Shri Simanta Saikia, Deputy Director, Spices Board and Shri S. Senthil Kumaran, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board handled the technical sessions. Shri Nagaraj, System Support Engineer explained the e-auction system in cardamom.



Farmers with officials of Spices Board at Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur

Market Linkage Programme on Coriander and FIG Group Training Programme

A Market Linkage Programme on Coriander and FIG group training programme was organised at Spices Park, Guna, Madhya Pradesh under the STDF funded project 'Strengthening spice value chain in India and improving market access through capacity building and innovative interventions'. The Assistant General Manager (AGM), NABARD, Shri Jagpreet Kaur, Shri B. L. Prajapati, Scientist, KVK, Shri G. S. Raguwanshi, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Shri Prasad Chakraborty, Assistant Marketing Advisor, Directorate of Marketing Inspection and delivered the lecture. Around 70 stakeholders attended the programme.



Glimpses of the training programme

Group Meeting with Turmeric Farmers

As part of the ongoing efforts to support the local agricultural community, Spices Board conducted a group meeting with turmeric farmers at Muppalla, Palnadu district, Andhra Pradesh on 12 July 2023 and discussed the current market trends, best practices and challenges faced by the farmers and also shared some useful tips and resources to help them improve their productivity and profitability. The team also visited a chilli nursery at Gudipudi, Sattenpalle, Palnadu district and observed the cultivation methods, pest management, and quality standards of the nursery.



Glimpses of the group meeting with turmeric farmers

Farmers' Exposure Visit

Twenty cardamom farmers from Pannaikadu, Thandikudi, K. C Petty and Aadalur of Palani hills, Kodaikanal taluk, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu visited Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara, Idukki on 13 July 2023. Dr K. Dhanapal, Scientist-C (HOD of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology), ICRI gave a brief lecture on cardamom cultivation and disease management in Small Cardamom. Dr M.A. Ansar Ali, Scientist-C, ICRI explained about insect pest management in Small Cardamom. After the class, various cultivation practices of cardamom in ICRI farm were demonstrated to the participants. Smt. V. Kayalvizhi, Assistant Director, Department of Horticulture, Kodaikanal and Shri L. Karthikeyan, Technical Manager, Department of Horticulture, Government of Tamil Nadu coordinated the programme.



Farmers along with officials of ICRI during the interactive session



Farmers with the officials of ICRI at ICRI, Myladumpara

Under the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme, about 20 farmers and officials from the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Park, Spices Board, Puttady, Idukki, Kerala on 13 July 2023.



A view of participants and resource persons

Sapling Planting Programme

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh conducted a Sapling Planting Programme on 13 July 2023 at Spices Park, Guna premises. The programme served as a platform to promote environmental awareness, enhance sustainable practices, and foster community engagement. The efforts undertaken during this programme will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term preservation and development of Spices Park, Guna as a hub for nature lovers, besides setting an inspiring example for others to follow.



Participants of the plantation programme

Meeting Regarding the Annual Action Plan for Synergy Collaboration

Spices Board Regional Office, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh organised a meeting on 19 July 2023 to discuss the annual action plan for synergy collaboration with various stakeholders in Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was attended by representatives from the State Horticulture Department, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), NABARD and officials from Horticulture Research Station.



Participants after the meeting

Hon'ble Consul General of India to Guangzhou, China Visits Spices Board, Kochi

Shri Shambu L. Hakki IFS, Hon'ble Consul General of India to Guangzhou, China visited Spices Board, Head Office, Kochi on 18 July 2023 and interacted with Spices Board officials. The Secretary, Spices Board, Shri D. Sathiyam IFS welcomed Shri Shambu L. Hakki IFS to Spices Board and gave Introductory remarks on the status of Indian Spices Sector with focus on export of spices to China. He presented a note on the excellent support given by the Indian Embassy, Beijing to handhold and solve the issues of Indian exporters. He said that, since China is also the largest competitor, the Indian spice sector would like to hear more about Chinese spice industry and its strategies. The Secretary, Spices Board also informed the Consul General about the 14th World Spice Congress scheduled on September 2023 at Mumbai.

Shri Nithin Joe, Deputy Director (Planning and Coordination), Spices Board gave a brief presentation on overall activities of Spices Board, status of spices sector and spice trade with special focus on China. He requested the support of the Consulate on the compilation of support extended to spice exporters by the Government of China, for promoting trade/export, early market access for spices such as Nutmeg, Mace, Saffron etc., continued support for registration under DAPQ & CIFER systems of GACC and Market Intelligence reports on Chinese spice sector, China's destinations for spices export & products, preferences of Chinese customers towards spices etc.

This was followed by an interactive session with the Consul General, wherein the Consul General detailed on the seven provinces of China under the Guangzhou Consulate of India, its economy and volume of spices traded with percentage of spices imported from India. The meeting came to an end with the thanking note by Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance), Spices Board.



Shri Shambu L. Hakki IFS, Hon'ble Consul General of India to Guangzhou, China interacting with the officials of Spices Board



Shri Shambu L. Hakki IFS, Hon'ble Consul General of India to Guangzhou, China with officials of Spices Board

Training on Sustainable Agriculture

Chaitanya Rural Development Society, Shimoga, Karnataka in association with Spices Board Divisional Office, Shimoga, Karnataka organised a training programme during 18-21 July 2023 on arecanut based intercropping of black pepper and other spices under sustainable agriculture. The Senior Field Officer, Spices Board Regional Office, Sakleshpur, Karnataka explained the cultivation practices of black pepper and a field visit was conducted at Kudumallige and Kodavanka villages.



Participants attending the training programme on sustainable agriculture

Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme

Spices Board Regional Office cum Extension Centre, Nizamabad, Telangana in association with Spices Board, Regional Office, Warangal, Telangana organised a virtual entrepreneurship development training programme on 22 July 2023. Shri Sundaresan N., Deputy Director, Spices Board, Nizamabad welcomed all the participants. Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board in his introductory remarks, briefed the scope for spices exports and stressed on the importance of quality while exports. In the programme, technical sessions on export opportunities for spices exports, incoterms 2020, MSME schemes, packaging and labelling requirements, quality requirements of spices for exports, Bank finance for export business etc., were handled by expert speakers. Shri Sethuraman, Chief Operating Officer, Emirates Bank, Mumbai; Shri Sudhir Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME, Hyderabad; Ms Sweta, Assistant Director, Indian Institute of Packaging, Chennai; Shri G. Venugopal, Scientist, Quality Evaluation Laboratory, Spices Board and Shri Lalit Taneja, General Manager, Punjab National Bank, New Delhi participated in the programme. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Smt. Vijeeshna V., Assistant Director, Spices Board, Warangal. Around 156 participants attended the programme.



Participants attending the virtual entrepreneurship development training programme

Plantation Visit

Shri Dharmendra Das, Director (Development), Spices Board along with other officials of the Board visited Malanadan Farmer Producers Company, Pampadumpara, Idukki district, Kerala on 20 July 2023 and evaluated the functioning of various post-harvest machineries installed in the company funded by Spices Board under its developmental programme. The Director also visited farmers' fields and interacted with several farmers of Idukki district.



Dharmendra Das, Director (Development), Spices Board and other officials during the field visit

Meeting with the First Secretary of Embassy of Azerbaijan in India

Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board met Shri Fakhri Aliyev, in-charge of the affairs of Embassy of Azerbaijan in India and extended a cordial invitation for the upcoming 14th World Spice Congress scheduled during 15-17 September 2023. The possibilities of collaboration for WSC were discussed in detail.



Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board presenting spice box to Shri Fakhri Aliyev, in-charge of the affairs of Embassy of Azerbaijan

Management Development Programme on Alternative Dispute Resolution Negotiation, Mediation, Conciliation & Arbitration 2023

Four officials from Spices Board attended a training on Management Development Programme on Alternative Dispute Resolution Encompassing Negotiation, Mediation, Conciliation & Arbitration 2023 held at AJNIFM, Faridabad during 24-26 July 2023. The training programme was conducted in three sessions. Shri Rajesh K. Agrawal, ICoAS Associate Professor (SG) & Faculty In-charge, Training Co-ordination AJNIFM delivered an introductory note and course overview followed by participant instruction.

The training programme came to an end with the valedictory session and certificate distribution. Dr V. Sreekumar, Assistant Director, Spices Board; Dr Mohammed Shameer Chereath, Assistant Director, Spices Board; Dr Shrishail K. Kulloli, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board and Smt. Shaiba C. K., Senior Field Officer, Spices Board attended the programme.



Participants with Shri M. C. Panda, Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce



Meeting with the First Secretary of Embassy of Belarus

Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board along with Smt. Bhawna Jeswani Bhasin, Editor, Spices Board met Mr Alexander Zhytko, First Secretary, Embassy of Belarus in India and extended a cordial invitation for the upcoming 14th World Spice Congress scheduled during 15-17 September 2023. The possibilities of collaboration for WSC were discussed in detail.



Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board gifting spice box to Mr Alexander Zhytko, First Secretary, Embassy of Belarus

Spices Board in Ujjwal Rajasthan

Spices Board Regional Office, Jodhpur, Rajasthan participated in Ujjwal Rajasthan a three-day mega exhibition event organised by Visual Myths at Udaipur, Rajasthan during 24-26 July 2023. The event held at Hotel Inder Residency had wide participation from all Government departments. The main attraction was Spices Board's stall with the exclusive spice gift boxes and tree spices, especially, True Cinnamon, Nutmeg and Mace. The visitors were advised to visit Flavourit online, an enterprise of Spices Board. Moreover, Spice India, the periodical published by the Board has also been distributed among the visitors and advised to subscribe. Shri Arjunlal Meena, Member of the Lok Sabha, Udaipur also visited Spices Board's stall at Ujjwal Rajasthan.



Stall put up by Spices Board at Ujjwal, Rajasthan

Spices Board in Agri Impex 2023

Spices Board participated in the 21st edition of Agri Impex 2023 organised by the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA), in association with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore during 14-17 July 2023 at CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex, Coimbatore. Spices Board participated in the fair through its Regional Office, Erode, Tamil Nadu. Shri Kanagadhileepan K, Assistant Director, Development; Shri Shivalingam R., Extension Assistant and S. Mohan, Farm Manager represented the Board. Spices Board set up a stall in the event that displayed the generic spice samples, products from FSTL and panels and the officials also informed about the upcoming edition of World Spice Congress 2023. The stall was visited by Shri Krishnankutty, Minister of Electricity, Government of Kerala; Shri Krishnaraj, Erode District Co-operative Bank; farmers and farmers' groups from across Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; entrepreneurs; academicians, scholars etc. Officials of Spices Board shared information on the activities and schemes of the Board.



Visitor at the stall set up by Spices Board at Agri Impex 2023

Mobile Spice Clinic

A mobile spice clinic programme was organised by Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara, Idukki at Konnathady area on 06 July 2023. Dr John Jo Varghese, Scientist, ICRI participated as the resource person in the programme along with Spice Research Trainees (SRTs). Necessary recommendations for the betterment of production and disease and pest management were given. A total of twenty-seven farmers were benefitted.



A view of participants

Hands-on Training Programme

A "Hands-on training programme on EPN (Entomopathogenic Nematode) & bio-agent production" was conducted by ICRI, Myladumpara, Idukki on 06 July 2023 at ICRI Myladumpara. Dr M. A. Ansar Ali, Scientist, ICRI gave an introductory remark about ICRI and took a session on the production of EPN and also discussed its importance in the cardamom fields. Spice Research Trainees of Plant Pathology division discussed a topic on the production of bio-control agents and also laboratory visit in the respective lab was arranged. After their field visit, an interactive session was carried out with farmers and clarified their doubts regarding the usage of organic manures and how to increase the production of cardamom by reducing the application of pesticides. A total of eight farmers were benefited by this programme.



Participants after the hands-on training programme

Exposure Visit

A team of 100 students along with four staff members from Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture, Manakkadavu, Pollachi visited ICRI on 03 July 2023. After a brief technical session, students visited ICRI farm along with Dr M. A. Ansar Ali and Dr John Jo Varghese, Scientists, ICRI.



Students during the field visit



XXXVth Annual Research Council Meeting

XXXVth Annual Research Council (ARC) Meeting of ICRI was held at Myladumpara during 20-21 July 2023. Shri D. Sathiyam IFS, Secretary, Spices Board delivered the inaugural address virtually in the XXXVth Annual Research Council Meeting. Dr K. Dhanapal, Secretary of ARC welcomed the delegates. Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance), Spices Board delivered the Keynote Address and Research Highlights of ICRI. Dr Mani Chellappan, Dean, College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur gave a special address to the programme. Dr C. K. Thankamani, Principle Scientist, ICAR-IISR, Calicut, released the XXXVth ARC Report of ICRI, Myladumpara. Felicitations were offered by Dr C. K. Thankamani, Principle Scientist; Dr Johnson George, Principle Scientist (Rtd), ICAR-IISR, Calicut; Dr Balu, Scientist-G, Head (Forest Protection) (Rtd), IFGTB, Coimbatore; Dr Jiji Joseph, Professor and Head, KAU, Thrissur; Dr M. Murugan, Prof. and Head, CRS, KAU, Pampadumpara; Dr M. Ananthan, Professor and former Director (ODL), Agriculture College and Research Institute, Madurai; Dr R. Kannan, Professor of Plant Pathology, TNAU, Coimbatore; Dr A. Usha Raja Nanthini, Professor and Head, Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal etc., were present during the programme. Dr K. Pradip Kumar, Scientist of Crop Improvement division delivered the vote of thanks.

After the inaugural session, the technical sessions of various divisions were carried out. The research works of different divisions were presented by the concerned scientists. Each session were chaired and co-chaired by subject experts to evaluate the progress of research work.



Release of the Annual Report

Plantation Visit

Dr Balaprasad IFS, Special Secretary, Panchayat and Advisor, National Medicinal Plant Board and Dr K. N. Harsha, Scientist-C, ICRI visited a nutmeg plantation at Malladevihalli, Belur taluk, Hassan district, Karnataka. The officers responded to the queries of farmers and gave necessary advice.



A view of plantation visit

Spice Clinic Programme

A spice clinic cum training programme on the use of bio-agent in Large Cardamom cultivation was conducted by ICRI, Tadong, Sikkim at Mangzing of Lower Dzongu area of Mangan district on 19 July 2023 in collaboration with Spices Board Divisional Office, Mangan. In the programme, Dr S. S. Bora, Scientist - C, ICRI served as the resource person and he emphasized on the use of bio-agent for fortification of Farm Yard Manure (FYM), seedling treatment and management of insect pests and diseases. A demonstration was made on fortification of FYM with *Trichoderma* and seedling treatment with *Pseudomonas*. The farmers were also shown the different diseases and insect infestation and how to differentiate them. Dr Bora, during the programme, described about different bio-pesticides (botanicals/ bioagents) and their usage to mitigate the problem. SRTs of the institute made a demonstration in the field on the use of bioagents in fortification of FYM and the way to use bio-pesticides to protect the crop. On the occasion, Dr Puvichonu Rhutso, Assistant Director, Spices Board Divisional Office, Mangan emphasized on protecting the crop to harness better profit and also described about the schemes of Spices Board implemented for the benefit of Large Cardamom farming community. The programme ended with the vote of thanks by Ms Sangey, Development Executive, Divisional Office, Mangan. Around 30 farmers participated.

Field Visit

Scientists of ICRI, Tadong, Sikkim visited 12 Large Cardamom fields and also assessed the infestation of insect pests and diseases on Large Cardamom and rendered necessary agro-advisory services by emphasizing on phytosanitation and use of bio-agent to protect the crop.



A view of field visit



Know Your GI Spice Assam Karbi Anglong Ginger

Karbi Anglong district of Assam is characterized by warm and humid summers with abundant rainfall, and cool winters, which are favourable for ginger cultivation. Mostly two varieties of ginger viz., Nadia and Bhola are cultivated in the district. Aizol variety is also a common variety grown by the farmers. Farmers in Karbi Anglong do not apply any chemical fertilizers nor any plant protection chemical in ginger cultivation. Farmers of this belt generally prefer to grow the ginger crop in moderate to high altitudes, where shifting cultivation or jhum cultivation has been carried out. The favourable agro-climatic conditions coupled with indigenous cultivation practices make the Assam Karbi Anglong Ginger special.



A view of planting material treatment



CIRCULARS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Circular No: MKT-AUC/SCHEDULE/01/2018- Schedule for conducting e-auctions at E-auction Centre at Puttady & Bodinayakanur from 14.08.2023 to 28.08.2023

http://www.indianspices.com/indianspices/sites/default/files/CIRCULAR%20-%20SCHEDULE%20FOR%20CONDUCTING%20E-AUCTIONS%20AT%20E-AUCTION%20CENTRE%20AT%20PUTTADY%20&%20BODINAYAKANUR_10_08_2023.pdf

Circular No: MKT-AUC/SCHEDULE/01/2018- Schedule for conducting Special e-auction for Cardamom (Small)

[http://www.indianspices.com/indianspices/sites/default/files/CIRCULAR%20-%20SCHEDULE%20FOR%20CONDUCTING%20SPECIAL%20E-AUCTION%20FOR%20CARDAMOM%20\(SMALL\)_10_08_2023.pdf](http://www.indianspices.com/indianspices/sites/default/files/CIRCULAR%20-%20SCHEDULE%20FOR%20CONDUCTING%20SPECIAL%20E-AUCTION%20FOR%20CARDAMOM%20(SMALL)_10_08_2023.pdf)

Circular No:10/2023-24- Maximum limits prescribed by Qatar for pesticide residues & other chemical and microbiological parameters in Spices & Spice Products Reg

<http://www.indianspices.com/indianspices/sites/default/files/circular%2010.pdf>



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<http://www.indianspices.com> / www.spicexchangeindia.com

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