

INDIAN SPICE NEWS

A Spices Board India Publication

Spices Experience Zone at the 1st G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting in Mumbai

The 1st Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency was held in Mumbai during 28 – 30 March 2023. During this three-day meeting, over 100 delegates from the G20 member countries, invitee countries, regional groupings and international organisations engaged in deliberations to accelerate global trade and investments.

The 1st TIWG meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad. Priorities related to global trade and investment which the Indian Presidency is pursuing was taken up for discussion in the 1st TIWG meeting and it covered topics including making trade work for growth and

prosperity, way forward for building resilient Global Value Chains (GVCs), priorities on integrating Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in global trade, and building efficient logistics for trade.

Addressing the meeting, MoS (Finance), Dr Karad highlighted the widening gap between developing and developed countries, which further gets exacerbated during pandemics and geopolitical crises. Emphasizing on the need for efficient and resilient global supply chains, he expressed that the G20 member countries must collaborate in designing interventions that will diversify GVCs in critical sectors, such as food, fertilizers, energy and pharmaceuticals.



Officials of Spices Board with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles

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.
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Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal appraises the spices gift box

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Department of Commerce and Chair for the TIWG Meeting reiterated that under Indian Presidency, the aim of the G20 member countries is to achieve shared outcomes for making growth inclusive and resilient, increasing the participation of developing countries and the Global South in GVCs, and building resilient GVCs to withstand future shocks. He added that the Presidency aims to develop inclusive trade policies that support global prosperity, guided by the principle of "One Earth, One Family and One Future", where cooperation and collaboration amongst nations will be the key drivers for promoting growth, and reducing poverty and inequality.

The 1st TIWG meeting was concluded on 30 March 2023 in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal. In his press interaction, Shri Piyush Goyal highlighted the theme of India's G20 Presidency that aims to promote universal values and adoption of human-centric approach. The Union Minister restated that the TIWG has an important role in formulating concrete outcomes for inclusive growth that drive trade and investment across Global

South, and not among G20 member countries only. He strongly advocated for equitable distribution of the benefits of global trade by and among all countries, including developing and least developed countries (LDCs) in order to progress towards a new world that is driven by collaboration, sustainable growth and solutions-oriented mindset.

As part of the TIWG meeting, theme-based experience zones on spices, millet, tea and coffee were set up at the venue, and an exhibition on textiles was also on display. The experience zones on spices, millet, tea and coffee showcased the unique as well as GI-tagged products from India as well as different value-added products.

The experience zone on spices put up by Spices Board was of aesthetic design at an area of approx. 400 Sq.Ft and displayed the spectrum of spices and value-added spice products in addition to live spice plants to provide a first-hand experience of Incredible Indian Spices. Different categories of value-added products from spices such as nutraceuticals and health supplements, perfumeries and aromatics, flavours, natural colours, extracts and isolates, etc., were displayed in the experience zone for providing information and experience on such products to the visitors.

The spices experience zone sought to provide a holistic experience to position Indian spices as of high-quality and meeting the norms of food safety in addition to demonstrating the country's strength and capabilities in the



Delegates from G20 countries and other invitees attending the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting



Theme based experience zone on spices set up by Spices Board

spices sector. The experience zone recapitulated an impression and feel in the minds of the visitors and onlookers, which complimented to creating a sustainable brand image to Indian spices as premium products of desired quality, food safety and hygiene aspects, having applications in various sectors. The experience centre also had a digital zone where all necessary information on Indian spices were made available in a digital format.

Under India's G20 Presidency, the aim is to build a shared understanding of the challenges being faced in accelerating global trade and investment, and how existing opportunities can be harnessed for the benefit of humanity following the motto of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* and find common solutions.







Director's Message

Addressing the Issue of Label Claims for Pesticide in Spices: A Status Update

An important issue raised persistently by spice growers, and which is already causing much concern in the sector, is the legal status and regulatory limits of plant protection agents used in spices. The number of plant protection agents that currently have label claims for use in spices is less, and this severely limits the legal use of many effective pesticides in the cultivation of spices.

In India, label claims for pesticides to be used in agricultural commodities are assigned by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC). Some previous engagements with CIBRC by individual research institutions have made it clear that only a concerted effort across the sector will be able to address this issue effectively. Accordingly, Spices Board launched a concerted effort with research institutions and pesticide industry associations to fast-track the submission of data to CIBRC.

These efforts have been covered in this column earlier, and I would now like to update the readers on the present status of work on this issue.

As informed earlier, Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), as the coordinator in spices sector for the All-India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues (AICRP) had offered to lead the effort of collating and evaluating the data already available with various research institutions. Accordingly, a brainstorming session on Label Claim Expansion for Spices was held on 18 April 2023 at IISR,



Dr A. B. Rema Shree
Director
Spices Board

Kozhikode. Invitees from various organizations including Spices Board, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), ICAR-National Research Centre on Seed Spices (ICAR-NRCSS), All India Network Project on Pesticide Residues (AINP-PR), All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRPS) centers, World Spice Organization (WSO), and representatives from pesticide industries participated in the discussion conducted in hybrid mode.

During the meeting, Spices Board assured support for the analysis of residue data required for registering chemicals for label expansion. The pesticide manufacturers' associations agreed to share the format of the application for applying to CIBRC for label expansion. It was also decided to share the bio-efficacy and residue data of effective molecules with the association of pesticide manufacturers so that they may identify the molecules of their interest and help to fill the gaps in existing data and apply for label expansion.

It is expected that in the coming months we would be successful in finalizing a framework that can initiate the required data generation, which will hopefully result in at least a few important pesticides having label claims in spices in a couple of years.



Quality Improvement Training Programme

Spices Board Divisional Office, Mangan, Sikkim conducted a quality improvement training programme at Taryang village, Sikkim on 02 March 2023.



Participants after the quality improvement training programme

Mobile Spice Clinic

A mobile spice clinic programme was conducted at Karadipara and Pothamedu areas of Idukki district on 02 March 2023. Dr Shadanaika, Scientist-C, ICRI, Myladumpara; Dr Manoj Oommen, Scientist-C, ICRI, Myladumpara and Shri Vishnu G., Field Officer, Spices Board, Rajakkad, Idukki attended the programme. Five cardamom fields were visited by the resource persons and necessary recommendations were given to solve various issues by focusing on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

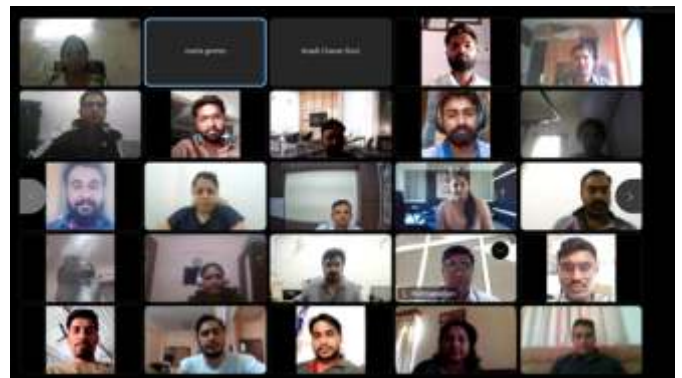


Officials during the field visit

Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme

Spices Board Regional Office, Unjha, Gujarat conducted a three-days entrepreneurship development training programme during 01 – 03 March 2023 for understanding the basics of spices export. Total 60 participants registered for the training programme from different states of India.

The programme was inaugurated by Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board. Sessions on export preliminaries, INCO terms, international payment terms, trade classifications, export costing and documentation, ECGC insurance, international marketing, MSME schemes, phytosanitary requirements, ECFC, Spices Board's schemes and World Spice Congress 2023 were delivered by Spices Board officials and officials from MSME, DPPQS, ICICI bank and ECGC.



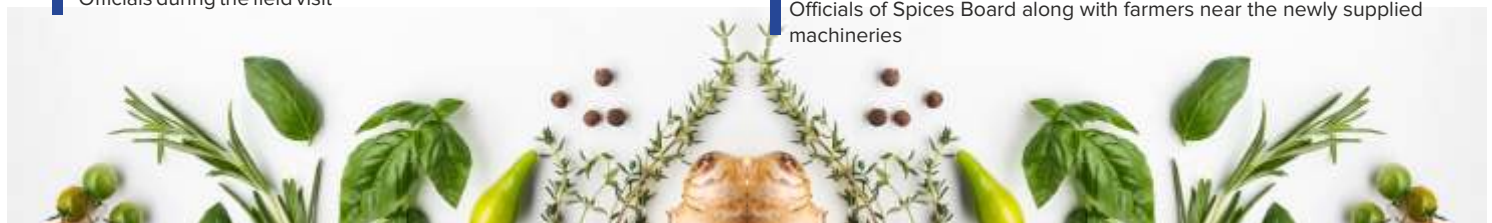
Participants of the entrepreneurship development training programme

Supply of Machineries under QGBG Scheme

Spices Board Field Office, Koraput, Odisha supplied turmeric boiler and polishers for the first time under QGBG scheme to two FPOs; Vikas Jyoti FPO and Baishnab Kandhamal Vegetables and Spices FPO in Kandhamal district. As the machineries were very new to the tribal farmers, a demonstration on the usage of the same was done by the manufacturers during the final inspection of the machineries.



Officials of Spices Board along with farmers near the newly supplied machineries



Quality Improvement Training Programme on Small Cardamom

Spices Board Field Office, Santhanpara, Idukki in collaboration with ICRI, Myladumpara and Krishi Bhavan, Santhanpara conducted a quality improvement training programme on Small Cardamom at Training Hall, Santhanpara Krishi Bhavan, Estate Poopara on 13 March 2023. Shri Vishnu G., Field Officer, Santhanpara welcomed resource persons and participants. Dr Shadanaika, Scientist-C, ICRI Myladumpara handled a technical session on Integrated Disease Management in Small Cardamom. Dr Ansar Ali, Scientist-C, ICRI Myladumpara handled a session on Integrated Pest Management in Small Cardamom. Smt. Aswathi Mohan, Field Supervisor, Agriculture Insurance Company Ltd dealt with Crop Insurance Scheme in Small Cardamom. Smt. Binitha K. N., Agriculture Officer, Santhanpara explained the various schemes of the State Agriculture Department. Shri Vishnu G., Field Officer, Spices Board, briefed the activities of the Board and importance of clean and safe spices. Progressive farmers shared their experiences in cardamom cultivation. About 45 farmers participated in the training.



Dignitary speaking during the quality improvement training programme on Small Cardamom

Spices Board Field Office, Pampadumpara, Idukki in collaboration with the Cardamom Research Station, Pampadumpara conducted a quality improvement training programme on Small Cardamom for the farmers of Pampadumpara and Karunapauram villages at Sugandharani Society Hall, Pampadumpara on 09 March 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Ruby Joseph, Panchayath Standing Committee Member. Smt. Nimisha Mathews, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), Cardamom Research Station (KAU), Pampadumpara handled the technical session. Shri Jyothish K., Senior Field Officer, Spices Board spoke about the activities of the Board and importance of clean and safe spices. Shri Dileep P. Prasad, MD, Malanadan Farmer Producer Company, Thoorkupalam explained the activities of their FPO and the services offered by them to the farming community. About 48 farmers participated in the training.



Dignitary speaking during the quality improvement training programme on Small Cardamom

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Nutmeg

Spices Board Field Office, Kattappana, Idukki, Kerala in collaboration with the Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara conducted a quality improvement training programme on nutmeg for the farmers at Milma Hall, Murickassery on 08 March 2023. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Shyni Saji, Zilla Panchayath Member. Dr John Jo Varghese and Dr Saju K. A., Scientists from ICRI Myladumpara handled the technical sessions and emphasized on the production of quality nutmeg and mace and its post-harvest handling. Shri Jyothish K., Senior Field Officer, briefed the activities of the Board and importance of clean and safe spices. Progressive farmers shared their experiences in nutmeg cultivation. Around 60 farmers participated in the training.



Dignitaries during the Quality Improvement Training Programme on Nutmeg

Another quality improvement training programme on nutmeg was conducted by Spices Board Field Office, Kalpetta, Wayanad in collaboration with Natural Innovative Farmers Producer Company Limited (NIFPC) and CENFIL at Panchayath Hall, Thiruvambadi, Calicut on 13 March 2023. Shri Sufaid, CENFIL welcomed the gathering. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Mercy Pulikaat, President, Thiruvambadi Panchayath and Presidential address was given by Shri K. A. Abdul Rahiman, Vice President, Thiruvambadi Panchayath. Special address was given by Shri Fazil A. A., Agriculture Officer, Thiruvambadi and Smt. Lisi Ebrahim, Standing Committee Chairperson, Thiruvambadi Panchayath. Dr Alfia, Scientist, Indian Institute Spices Research (IISR), Calicut also participated in the training programme. Shri Ajsal Muhammed, Chairman, NIFPC gave an introductory note on the value-added products of nutmeg. Dr E. Jayashree, Principal Scientist from IISR, Calicut delivered a lecture on good agricultural practices and value addition in nutmeg. Smt. Neethu Parameswaran, Officer-in-charge, Spices Board briefed about the schemes of Spices Board. Around 52 farmers attended the programme and were benefitted. In the interactive session, farmers raised their queries which were answered accordingly.



Dignitary speaking at the Quality Improvement Training Programme





Buyer Seller Meet

A Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) was organised by Spices Board, Regional Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra on 24 March 2023 at Navi Mumbai to establish a direct link between spices growers and exporters of Maharashtra. Shri Hemant Patil Saheb, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Chairman of Balasaheb Thackeray Haridra Research and Training Centre, Hingoli, inaugurated the BSM. Shri Kailash Mote, Director, Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra and Shri B. N. Jha, Director, Spices Board addressed the sellers and buyers in the programme. There were about 200 farmers in the BSM from Hingoli, Basmat, Yavatmal, Nanded, Chandrapur, Wardha, Satara, Sangli, Aurangabad, Washim and Amravati. Farmer Producer Companies and organisations expressed their happiness for the initiative of Spices Board to bring farmers and spices exporters on a single platform to create direct links between buyers and sellers. More than 60 exporters registered for the meeting from Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Nanded and Nagpur.



Shri B. N. Jha, Director, Spices Board addressing the gathering during the buyer-seller meet

Capacity Building Programme for Preventive Control Qualified Individuals

Spices Board Regional Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra completed the Capacity Building Programme for Preventive Control Qualified Individuals for Human Foods as per the requirements of USFDA during 23 – 25 March 2023 under the Market Access Initiative (MAI) programme of Government of India. During the session, the Director (Horticulture), Government of Maharashtra discussed the objective and implementation process being done for food safety on the spices exported from India, focusing on USA and other developed countries. Around 16 technical personnel from Mumbai region participated in the programme.



Participants with the officials after the capacity building programme for preventive control qualified individuals

Spices Board in North East Food Fest 2023

Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati, Assam participated in North East Food Fest 2023 held at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati, Assam. In the event, Spices Board put up a stall which was visited by Shri Bimal Bora, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Commerce, Public Enterprise and Cultural Affairs, Government of Assam.



Stall put up by Spices Board as part of North East Food Fest 2023

Spice Clinic Programme

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Regional Station, Tadong, Sikkim organised a spice clinic programme at Upper Sumin, Pakyong district on 02 March 2023. The team visited Large Cardamom plantations, provided advisory services on Large Cardamom shade management and distributed bio capsules viz., Tricoderma sp, Bacillus sp, and PGPR to 12 progressive farmers of ginger and turmeric.

Another spice clinic programme was conducted in collaboration with the College of Horticulture, Central Agricultural University, Birmiok, at Pabong, Namchi district of Sikkim on 23 March 2023. The officials visited Large Cardamom plantations and interacted with the growers and gave advise on pest and disease management. The team also disseminated information on proper management of diseases affecting Dalle Chilli.



A view of the participants of the spice clinic at Pabong



International Buyer Seller Meet with China

Spices Board India along with the China Chamber of Commerce of Import and Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce and Animal By-products (CFNA) organised a hybrid (online and offline) Buyer Seller Meet on Indian Spices between major Indian exporters and prospective Chinese importers on 20 March 2023. The event was marked by the introductory remarks of Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance), Spices Board, opening remarks by Mr Rong Weidong, Vice Chairman of CFNA, and a presentation on the Indian spice industry and 14th World Spice Congress 2023 by Shri Basisth Narayan Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board. The keynote address on "China spice market and Indian spices in China" was delivered by Mr Mike Liu, Chairman and Mr Jonathon Cai, General Manager, BC Foods Shandong Co. Ltd. followed by an online presentation on 'Seasoning market trends and Indian seasoning opportunities', by Shri Krishnadas G., Head - Marketing and Communication, Symega Food Solutions.

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Spices

Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara, Idukki organised a quality improvement training programme on spices at Kuzhitholu, Idukki, Kerala on 17 March 2023. Dr K. Dhanapal and Dr M. A. Ansar Ali, Scientists, ICRI attended the programme. In the technical session, Dr K. Dhanapal delivered a lecture on 'Major rot diseases in Small Cardamom'. A total of fifty-three farmers were benefitted by this programme.

Another quality improvement training programme on spices was organised at Ayyankolly, Wayanad on 20 March 2023. Dr Shadanaika and Dr P. Thiyagarajan, Scientists, ICRI attended the programme. A total of forty farmers were benefitted by this programme.



A view of the participants of QITP held at Kuzhitholu

Students' Exposure Visit

The students and staff from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu visited ICRI, Myladumpara on 14 March 2023. The team included 28 students and three faculties. Dr K. Dhanapal (Head of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology Division) delivered the welcome address. Technical session was handled by Dr Shadanaika, Scientist, ICRI and delivered a lecture on 'Management of diseases in Small Cardamom'. After the technical session, students visited Plant Pathology and Entomology laboratories. The field visit was handled by Shri P. G. Shiju, Farm Manager and Shri Ramraj, Senior Agricultural Demonstrator, Spices Board. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the students of Annamalai University.

Students and faculties of Annamalai University with officials of ICRI



