

INDIAN SPICE NEWS

A Spices Board India Publication

World Spice Congress 2023 rescheduled to 15-17 September 2023

The 14th edition of World Spice Congress (WSC) which was scheduled to be held during February 2023 at CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai is rescheduled to 15-17 September 2023.

“Considering the uncertainty and constraints in international travel due to the COVID-19 situation prevailing in some of the major spice importing countries which has hindered participation of many delegates in the WSC, based on requests and feedback received from various stakeholders both domestic and international, and in the interest of facilitating wider participation of delegates from across the world, we are constrained to reschedule the World Spice Congress 2023 from 16 - 18 February 2023, to 15 - 17 September 2023” informed Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing), Spices Board and Organising Secretary, WSC 2023.

The venue for the event will remain the same and all existing registrations of delegates and exhibition stalls will be carried forward to the rescheduled event. The process of registration of

delegates and exhibition stall will continue online at www.worldspicecongress.com.

Renowned as the apt platform to get to know about the recent trends and developments in the global spices sector, World Spice Congress has always facilitated conglomeration of the key players of the sector- exporters, processors, regulators, service providers and importers from across the world. The WSC is organized by Spices Board (Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

Govt of India) with active participation of Spice Trade Associations in India like Indian Spice & Foodstuff Exporters' Association, Mumbai; Indian Pepper and Spice Trade Association, Kochi; Indian Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata; and Federation of Indian Spice Stakeholders, Unjha, Gujarat.



The WSC 2023, supported by the Government of India, will be having diverse and rich experience in its upcoming 14th edition. Organised on the sidelines of India's G20 Presidency, the event will provide an opportunity to meet the global spice fraternity including major regulators and policymakers to promote the Indian brands before the global audience.

For more information, please contact: Shri B. N. Jha, Director (Marketing) & Organising Secretary, WSC 2023 at 0484 2333610, Extn:233;

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Director's Message

New Initiatives in Extending Label Claims of Pesticides for Spices

Over the years, Spices Board has undertaken various programmes to address the challenges and technical issues affecting Indian spices and their exports, including quality and safety issues, as part of the operational mandate of the Board. These efforts have contributed significantly towards the steady growth of the Indian spices sector, and sustained the strong performance of spices export from India.

Presently, the Board is in the process of addressing a most important issue that has been raised time and again by spice growers, and which is already causing much concern in the sector, viz., the legal status and regulatory limits of plant protection agents used in spices.

In India, label claims for pesticides to be used in agricultural commodities are assigned by the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIB&RC). The number of plant protection agents that currently have label claims for use in spices is very less, and this severely limits the legal use of many effective pesticides in the cultivation of spices. Chillies, cumin and cardamom do have a few pesticides with label claims, but other major spices like turmeric, ginger, etc., do not have any pesticide with label claims. This precludes the legal use of any of the important pesticides in these commodities and also severely limit the publishing of effective package of practices for implementing good agricultural practices in these spices. In practice, such situations also result in indiscriminate use of pesticides during cultivation of these spices.

In February 2022, Spices Board constituted an advisory committee, viz., the 'National Committee on Spices Quality and Safety' (NCSQS), aimed at strengthening the efforts to address the challenges and technical issues affecting Indian spices, and also to facilitate collaborative efforts by various stakeholders in the spices sector in India, with representatives from various departments, institutions and other stakeholders of the spices sector. The first session of this committee was held in July 2022. In this session, the aforementioned problem of lack of sufficient number of label claims in pesticides for use in spices was flagged as a critical issue to be addressed in the spice production sector in India.

In the past, some of the major agricultural research institutions working in the spices sector have made individual attempts towards submitting field-level data to the CIB&RC for extending label claims for pesticides in other commodities to spices also. However such attempts have not fetched maximum benefits for the spices sector. In the wake of NCSQS-1, Spices Board also had been discussing with other government organizations and research institutes working in the spices sector to address this important issue and decided that it would be beneficial to approach the decision-making authorities at the Ministry of Agriculture, CIB&RC and FSSAI to seek guidance on this matter.



Dr A. B. Rema Shree
Director
Spices Board

Accordingly, during the last week of December 2022, interactions were held with the Chairperson and Secretary of CIB&RC, Assistant Director General - Plant Protection (ADG-PP) and Advisor (Quality Assurance, Science & Standards), FSSAI, to request their guidance and intervention to take this matter forward. The main insight that evolved from these meetings was that the previous data submissions by individual research organizations for extension of label claims of pesticides approved in other crops to spices would not be considered by CIB&RC. The only practical way forward now is to generate field trial data in the format prescribed by CIB&RC as a collaborative effort by research organizations and universities, and to submit the same through the concerned pesticide manufacturer to CIB&RC for consideration.

Keeping these insights in mind, the Board has now held preliminary discussions with representatives of pesticide manufacturers on the possible strategies for effectively implementing a plan to generate data for submission to CIB&RC. The attitude of the pesticide industry towards this issue is in general positive. However, the diverse nature and small scale of spice production in India as compared to staple food commodities is a deterrent factor that limits the interest of pesticide manufacturers in taking up this work on their own.

The work involved is large, as separate data dossiers have to be submitted for each spice/pesticide combination, and the data generated should include bio-efficacy and residue data generated through supervised field trials from three agro-climatic locations over two seasons. The financial outlay required for such efforts is also significant. Thus, it is clear that only a concerted and collaborative effort, including different agricultural research organizations working in the spices sector and the pesticide industry, can hope to result in any significant progress in solving this problem. Spices Board hopes to spearhead such an effort.

Presently, Spices Board is reaching out to the major agricultural research institutions and agricultural universities across the country and the major associations of pesticide manufacturers in India, in an effort to launch a common platform that can address this issue of label claims in spices and thereby fix Maximum Residue Limit (MRLs) for spices. It is hoped that in the coming months, the Board would be successful in finalizing a framework that can initiate the required data generation work, which will hopefully result in at least a few important pesticides having label claims in spices in a couple of years. The path is long and arduous, but as the proverb says, even the longest journey begins with a single step.

Spices Board in FI Europe 2022

Spices Board participated in Food Ingredients (FI) Europe 2022 which was organised at Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, Paris, France during 06 - 08 December 2022. In the event, representatives of the food ingredient industry / organisations from around 130 countries participated and exhibited their products and activities in more than 1000 stalls. The aim of FI Europe 2022 was to inspire sustainable development. Spices Board participated in the event along with nine spice exporters from India.

Spices Board's stall at FI Europe was inaugurated by Mr Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to the Republic of France. He was accompanied by Mr Deepanshu Khurana, Second Secretary and a team of officials from the Indian Embassy. The Ambassador interacted with Spices Board officials and exporters at the stall. During the event, several stakeholders of spice and food industries visited the stall. Their inquiries were attended by the officials as well as the co-participants. Needful guidance was given to the venturers. The Board has advertised its activities and role in the Indian spice industry as well as disseminated information on the upcoming event, World Spice Congress 2023. Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director (Research and Finance) and Shri Jai Saravanan, Assistant Director represented Spices Board in the event.



Mr Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France interacting with the officials of Spices Board

Quality Improvement Training Programme for Chilli and Ginger

Spices Board Field Office, Kohima, Nagaland conducted a quality improvement training programme for chilli and ginger at Logwesunyu village, Kohima district, Nagaland on 01 December 2022. A total of 65 farmers attended the training programme.



Participants of the quality improvement training programme on chilli and ginger

Spices Board in SIAL India 2022

Spices Board participated in SIAL India 2022 held during 01-03 December 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Board arranged a stall and showcased different spices and spice products. As part of the event, several business meetings were held between Indian exporters and foreign importers.

SIAL India 2022 was inaugurated by Dr M. Angamuthu IAS, Chairman, APEDA. Some of the foreign visitors paid a visit to the Board's stall and have shown interest in importing spices from India, especially organic products. Over 5,000 visitors and more than 200 exhibitors across the globe attended the event. Many visitors inquired about Spices Board's functions and activities, procedures for obtaining Certificate of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES) and general information on the spice industry. Shri Manikandan M., Deputy Director, Spices Board and Mr Ravindran J., Record Keeper, Spices Board Regional Office, New Delhi represented the Board in the event. Ten spice exporters co-participated along with Spices Board in the event.



Stall put up by Spices Board in SIAL India 2022

Farmers' Exposure Visit

Spices Board Regional Office cum Extension Centre, Nizamabad, Telangana organised farmers' exposure visit to Hingoli / Basmat region of Maharashtra during 01 - 03 December 2022 and 07-09 December 2022. The farmers from Telangana visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Hingoli, turmeric fields and Dattaguru Farmer Producer Company (FPC) and interacted with scientists and growers.



Turmeric farmers during the exposure visit to Hingoli / Basmat region



Farmers during the exposure visit

Spices Board in 7th Assam International Agri-Horti Show

Spices Board Regional Office Guwahati, Assam participated with a stall in the 7th Assam International Agri-Horti Show organised at the Veterinary College Field in Khanapara, Guwahati during 17-19 December 2022. The event was organised by the Department of Agriculture and Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam and Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam, inaugurated the event on 17 December 2022.

Indian spices including GI-tagged spices like Naga Mircha, Mizo Chilli (Bird's eye chilli), Hathei Chilli, Uttarakhand Tejpat, Karbi Anglong Ginger were of main focus at the Board's stall. Many spice plants were also displayed.

Many FPCs, exporters and traders visited the Board's stall and the Board provided a platform for the buyers and sellers of spices for interaction. Under the Sugandhashree project, students of Padmaram Bharali High School, Assam visited Spices Board's stall as part of their exposure visit on the second day of the event. Various stakeholders enquired about trade information in detail.



Stall put up by Spices Board during 7th Assam International Agri-Horti Show

Spices Board in Krishi Mela 2022

Spices Board Field Office, Mudigere, Karnataka participated in the Krishi Mela 2022 organized jointly by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Mudigere and Zonal Agricultural and Horticultural Station, Mudigere on 23 December 2022 at UAHS-ICAR-KVK New Training Complex, Mudigere. At the event, Spices Board set up a stall showcasing the spices from the state. The Board's stall was visited by Dr R. C. Jagadisha, Vice-chancellor, UAHS, Shivamogga and Dr Shiva Prasad, Associate Director of Research, Zonal Agricultural and Horticultural Research Station, Mudigere. Further, students from various institutions, stakeholders, members from FPOs and NGOs and from other line departments also visited the stall. Officials of the Board explained the quality aspects of spices and their value addition. Many of the visitors have shown interest in cultivation of black pepper, Small Cardamom and value addition of various spices.



Stall put up by Spices Board in the Krishi Mela 2022

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Chilli

Spices Board Divisional Office, Aizawl, Mizoram conducted a quality improvement training programme on chilli at Mualthum North village on 01 December 2022.



Participants of the quality improvement training programme on chilli at Mualthum North village, Mizoram

Growers' Training Programme on Ginger

Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala, Tripura organised a growers' training programme on ginger for women ginger growers of Sepahijala at Bishalgarh, Sepahijala district, Tripura on 06 December 2022. Technical sessions were handled by Shri Prabir Datta, Agriculture Sector Officer, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Tripura; Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala and Shri Suman Bhowmik, Senior Agriculture Demonstrator, Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala. A total of 52 participants attended the training programme.

Another growers' training programme on ginger was organised at Bagmara, South Tripura district on 09 December 2022. Technical sessions were delivered by Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board, Shri Suman Bhowmik, Senior Agriculture Demonstrator, Spices Board and Shri Dipen Mohan, Agricultural Assistant, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Tripura. Total 52 farmers attended the training.



Glimpses of the growers' training programme on ginger



Traders' Training Programme on Good Hygienic Practices in Coriander

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh organised a traders' training programme on Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) in coriander at APMC (Agriculture Produce Market Committee) mandi, Guna on 07 December 2022. Around 25 stakeholders participated in the training programme. Two more traders' training programmes were organised at APMC, Mandsaur and Neemuch. Several traders and exporters attended the training and discussed good hygienic and good manufacturing practices for spices.



Traders' training programme on good hygienic practices in coriander

Regional Seminar on Sustainable Quality Production and Securing Better Market Access for Smallholder Farmers of Western Rajasthan

Spices Board Regional Office, Jodhpur, Rajasthan conducted a regional seminar on seed spices focusing on 'Sustainable Quality Production and Securing Better Market Access for Smallholder Farmers of Western Rajasthan' at Nimbari Chandawatan, Degana, Nagaur, Rajasthan on 07 December 2022. The programme aimed at motivating the farmers to take up sustainable, quality spice production through FPO empowerment. Officials from KVK Nagaur; South Asia Biotechnology Centre, Jodhpur; District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Nagaur and representatives from M/s Olam Food Ingredients, M/s Ambuja Foundation and M/s Degana Masala Producer Company interacted with the farmers on cumin, fennel, fenugreek and Nagauri Pan Methi. A total of 110 farmers attended the programme.



Dignitary delivering lecture during the regional seminar on seed spices

Growers' Training Programme on Large Cardamom and Ginger

Spices Board Field Office, Dimapur, Nagaland conducted a growers' training programme on Large Cardamom and ginger at Luthsumi village, Zunheboto, Nagaland on 07 December, 2022.



Growers' training programme at Luthsumi village, Zunheboto



Regional Seminar on GI-tagged Waigaon Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra conducted a regional seminar on GI-tagged Waigaon Turmeric which comes under the One District One Product initiative of the Government of India, at Waigaon Haldiya village of Wardha district, Maharashtra on 06 December 2022. Shri Rahul Kardile IAS, District Collector inaugurated the regional seminar and emphasized on the importance of the indigenous high curcumin turmeric variety of this region and the need for increasing its production and market linkage. During the programme, experts from the State Agriculture Department; District Industries Centre (DIC), Wardha; KVK; GI Custodian, Waigaon Halad Utpadak Sangh; FPOs and exporters deliberated on various aspects of turmeric production viz., cultivation practices, post-harvest processing, national and international quality requirement and various schemes of Spices Board and State Government. More than 100 farmers participated in the programme.



Shri Rahul Kardile IAS, District Collector, Wardha delivering the inaugural address

Quality Improvement Training Programme for Small Cardamom

Spices Board Field Office, Somwarpet, Karnataka conducted a quality improvement training programme (QITP) for Small Cardamom on 07 December 2022 at Beedahalli village.

Spices Board Field Office, Koppa also conducted a QITP for Small Cardamom on 07 December 2022 at Town Hall Koppa.



Participants of the quality improvement training programme

Growers' Training Programme on Turmeric

Spices Board Field Office, Shillong, Meghalaya conducted a growers' training programme on turmeric on 09 December 2022 for the members of Life Spices Processing Co-operative Society at Laskein, West Jaintia Hills district. The society is engaged in the production and processing of Lakadong Turmeric. A total of 50 farmers attended the programme.



Glimpses of the growers' training programme on turmeric

Quality Improvement Training Programme for Chilli Farmers

Spices Board Divisional Office, Hyderabad, Telangana organised a quality improvement training programme for chilli farmers and other stakeholders at Dakur village, Andole mandal, Sangareddy district, Telangana on 09 December 2022. The programme was conducted in coordination with line departments like the Department of Agriculture, Department of Horticulture and Sericulture, District Bio Control Laboratory, District Soil Testing Laboratory, District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centre (DAATTC) and Prof. Jayashankar of Telangana State Agricultural University.

The main objective of the programme was to train the chilli growers and transfer the technology to farmers at grassroot level. The meeting began with a welcome address by Shri Vijaya Ratna, Mandal Agriculture Officer, Andole. Shri M. A. Sattar, Department of Horticulture and Sericulture, Government of Telangana inaugurated the programme and delivered the inaugural address. There were eight technical sessions. The quality improvement training programme concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Shri Siva Kumar Ganiwada, Senior Agriculture Demonstrator, Spices Board. More than 60 participants attended the programme.



Quality improvement training programme for chilli farmers



Visit to Turmeric Farms

Officials from Spices Board, State Agriculture Department and State Bank of India (SBI) visited turmeric farms in Vidul village, Umarkhed, Yavatmal district, Maharashtra on 08 December 2022 and interacted with more than 50 farmers and deliberated on various issues related to turmeric cultivation.



Officials of Spices Board, State Agriculture Department and State Bank of India at turmeric farm

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Black Pepper

Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala, Tripura organised a quality improvement training programme on black pepper at Zaithang, North Tripura district on 13 December 2022. Technical sessions were delivered by Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board, Shri Suman Bhowmik, Senior Agriculture Demonstrator, Spices Board and Shri Bijoy Debnath, Sector Officer, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Tripura. A total of 50 farmers attended the training programme.

Another training programme on black pepper for women growers at Chandrapur, Gomati district was organised on 29 December 2022. The technical session was handled by Shri Emugan Hrangkhaw, Agriculture Sector Officer, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Tripura and Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala. Smt. Rina Ghosh, Gram Pradhan of Chandrapur; Smt. Sukla Majumder, Social Activist and founder of General Welfare Society, Shri Partha Pratim Pal also attended the training. Around fifty participants attended the training programme.



Participants of the quality improvement training programme on Black Pepper

Growers' Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board, Field Office, Kohima, Nagaland conducted a growers' training programme on Large Cardamom on 13 December 2022 at Lirise village, Tuensang district, Nagaland. Technical sessions were taken by Shri Sahiini Ronald, Field Officer; Shri David NG, Senior Agriculture Demonstrator, Spices Board and Shri Lithrise, BOD of Rhododendron FPC Ltd. The team from Rhododendron FPC Ltd shared the experience, role and functioning of their FPC during the training programme. Around 50 farmers attended the training programme.



Growers' training programme on Large Cardamom

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Small Cardamom

Spices Board Field Office Vangoor, Karnataka organised a quality improvement training programme on Small Cardamom at Gram Panchayath Hall, Vangoor on 14 December 2022. Shri B. K. Ramesha, Field Officer, Vangoor welcomed the gathering and the training programme was inaugurated by Shri Sathish H. D., Gram Panchayath President, Vangoor and members of Spices Board.

A progressive farmer, Shri Nagaraj, Kongalli mentioned the steps that need to be taken for the good production of Small Cardamom and the importance of maintaining the traditional method of agriculture. In the technical session, Dr H. N. Harsha, Scientist, Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), Donigal has given a lecture on nursery management, disease and pest management and post-harvest technology in Small Cardamom. After the technical session, Smt. Vijayachithra, SADHO, Horticulture Department, Sakleshpur, spoke about the schemes extended by the Horticulture Department. A total of 95 people attended the programme.



Participants after the training programme on Small Cardamom

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Chilli

Spices Board Regional Office, Warangal, Telangana conducted a quality improvement training programme on chilli at Rythu Vedika, Chityala village, Bhupalpally district, Telangana on 13 December 2022 with special focus on post-harvest management for export. Farmers were given awareness on the use of drying yards and silpaulin or tarpaulin sheets to dry chilli to avoid contamination as well as proper drying of chillies to reduce the concerns due to aflatoxin. Shri A. Ravinder, Village Sarpanch inaugurated the programme. The programme was presided over by Shri Vijaya Bhaskar, District Agriculture Officer, Bhupalpally district. Technical sessions on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) were handled by Dr Anilkumar, Senior Scientist, Entomology, Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Warangal. Technical session on post-harvest handling of chillies was handled by Smt. Vijeeshna V., Assistant Director, Regional Office, Warangal. Shri Sunil, Horticulture Officer and Shri Srinivas, Agriculture Officer attended the programme and explained the activities of their departments. The programme was attended by 56 farmers. An awareness video on safe handling and spraying of insecticides was also screened to create awareness among farmers.

Another training programme on chilli was organised by Spices Board Regional Office, Warangal, Telangana on 27 December 2022 at Rythu Vedika, Mahadevpur village and Mandal Bhupalpalle district of Telangana. The meeting was inaugurated by Smt. Aruna, Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC), Mahadevpur and presided over by Shri Sreepathi Babu, Village Sarpanch. The technical session on IPM in chilli was handled by Dr Sravan Kumar, Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Warangal, followed by a session on post-harvest quality management by Smt. Vijeeshna V., Assistant Director, Spices Board. Shri Sanjeev Rao, District Horticulture Officer explained the schemes of the Horticulture department. Shri Thirupathy Reddy, Chairman, Primary Agricultural Co-operative Society, Mahadevpur felicitated the gathering. A visit to thrips affected chilli field was also conducted. Appropriate prescriptions were given by the Scientist as well as the Horticulture Officer.

The Regional Office, Spices Board, Warangal, Telangana organised another QITP on chilli on 29 December 2022 at Rythu Vedika, Nadikuda village, Hanamkomda district. The meeting was attended by 40 farmers. The Village Sarpanch, Shri Raveendar Reddy inaugurated the programme and the technical sessions were handled by Dr D. Veeranna, Scientist, Regional Agricultural Research Station, Warangal and Ms Manasa, Horticulture Officer. Farmers were given awareness on black thrips in chilli as well as various measures to address the issue. Farmers were also given awareness on post-harvest management to reduce the aflatoxin issues in chilli and to use silpaulin / tarpaulin sheets to dry the chilli.



Quality improvement training programmes on chilli organised by Spices Board Regional Office, Warangal, Telangana

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Garlic

Spices Board, Jodhpur, Rajasthan conducted a quality improvement training programme focusing on quality production and value addition in garlic for better price realisation at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Anta, Baran district on 14 December 2022. Baran district comes under ODOP for garlic and needs assistance for facilitating post-harvest processing and value addition set up nearby. Dr A. K. Sharma, National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF); Dr D. K. Singh, Scientist in-charge, KVK, Anta; and Dr Sunil Kumar, KVK participated in the training programme. More than 50 fifty farmers attended the training.



A glimpse of the quality improvement training programme on garlic

Growers' Training Programme on Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati, Assam conducted a growers' training programme on turmeric at No.1 Gorobdwara, Panbari, Chirang on 14 December 2022 for the members of BODOFA Agro Organic Producers Company. A total of 52 spice growers participated in the training programme.



Participants after the training programme on turmeric



Growers' Training Programme on Black Pepper

Spices Board Divisional Office, Agartala, Tripura in collaboration with the Directorate of Horticulture and Soil Conservation, Government of Tripura organised a one-day growers' training programme on black pepper on 14 December 2022 at District ATMA Training Hall, Dharmanagar, North Tripura district, Tripura. The training was organised under 'Integrated Project on Production and Post-harvest Management of Black pepper for Tripura'. Around 50 black pepper growers from North Tripura and Unakoti districts attended the training programme. Technical sessions were delivered by Shri Srinath Baidya, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Unakoti district; Shri Babul Malakar, Superintendent of Horticulture, Dharmanagar; Shri Pritam Chakraborty, Field Officer, Spices Board; Shri Nirajan Dasgupta, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture; Shri Sandip Chakraborty, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture and Shri Prithwis De, Assistant Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of Tripura.



Growers' training programme on black pepper

31st Session of the ISO Committee on Spices, Herbs and Condiments

The 31st session of the ISO Committee on Spices, Herbs and Condiments, ISO-TC34/SC7 was convened virtually during 14 – 15 December 2022. The meeting was organized from Spices Board Head Office, Kochi with Dr A. B. Rema Shree, Director, Research and Finance, Spices Board at the chair, and Ms. Navita Yadav, Scientist, Bureau of Indian Standards (Committee Manager SC7) leading the discussions. The meeting was attended by around 30 delegates from 16 countries.



31st session of the ISO Committee on Spices, Herbs and Condiments

Training Programme for CEOs of FPOs

Spices Board Regional Office, Jodhpur, Rajasthan conducted a training programme for CEOs of FPOs at Agri Export Facilitation Centre (AEFC), Jodhpur, Rajasthan with regard to post-harvest management of spices, procedure for registration as an exporter of spices and export promotion programmes implemented by Spices Board for benefiting seed spices growers and exporters. During the programme, the speakers informed about the importance of IPM practices to be followed by the growers to meet quality requirements of the importing countries.



Participants after the training programme for CEOs of FPO

Quality Improvement Training Programme for Black Pepper

Spices Board Field Office, Mudigere, Karnataka conducted a quality improvement training programme for black pepper at Bejavalli Horticulture Departmental Farm, Mudigere, Chickmangalore district on 14 December 2022. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Divya N., Assistant Director, Horticulture Farm, Beejuvalli and was inaugurated by Dr Johncy Manihottam, Deputy Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Sakleshpur. Shri Kenjige Keshava, former IPC award winner shared his experience on black pepper cultivation and post-harvest processing. Technical sessions were handled by Dr Girish, Senior Scientist, KVK, Mudigere and Shri Akshay, Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mudigere. A total of 55 farmers attended the training.



Dr Johncy Manihottam, Deputy Director, Spices Board inaugurating the training programme



Study Tour for the Cumin Farmers of Banaskantha

Spices Board Regional Office, Unjha, Gujarat organised a study tour for the cumin farmers of Banaskantha (Dedava village) under the project titled 'Strengthening spice value-chain in India and improving market access through capacity building and innovative interventions' implemented by Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and Spices Board at National Research Centre on Seed Spices (NRCSS), Ajmer during 13 – 15 December 2022. A team consisting of 46 farmers and officials of Spices Board visited the NRCSS, a premier research centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research that works on improvement of seed spices at Ajmer, Rajasthan. Research Scientists of NRCSS handled the technical session on GAP, GMP and IPM in cumin cultivation. The team also visited the cumin D-plot in the NRCSS campus and processing centres besides meeting progressive farmers.



Cumin cultivators during the study tour

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Coriander

Spices Board Regional Office, Jodhpur/Kota, Rajasthan conducted a quality improvement training programme on coriander at Rampuria Pirava tehsil, Jhalawar, Rajasthan on 15 December 2022. The programme focused on market-oriented production, quality issues and export of coriander. There was an active participation of 95 farmers. Shri Madhusudan Acharya, Retired Professor, KVK, Jhalawar inspired the farmers towards organic farming and told about good agricultural techniques. Dr Shrishail K. Kulloli informed the farmers about the innovation in coriander and motivated them for value addition. Representatives from various exporting companies spoke on subjects like sustainable cultivation, good farming techniques, value addition, etc.



Quality improvement training programme on coriander

Growers' Training Programme on Organic Farming

Spices Board Field Office, Shillong, Meghalaya conducted a growers' training programme on organic farming on 15 December 2022 for the members of Sohpoock Organic Growers Producer Company Ltd at Raitong, Ri Bhoi district. Around 50 participants attended the programme.



Glimpses of the growers' training programme on organic farming

Spice Clinic Programme

A spice clinic programme was conducted at Kolli Hills, Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu on 15 December 2022. Scientists from the Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), Dr K. Dhanapal, Head of Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology and Dr P. Thiyagarajan, Scientist-C, Entomology attended the programme. Shri Kanagadhileepan, Deputy Director in-charge, Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur and Shri Shivalingam, Extension Assistant, Field Office, Erode coordinated the programme. The team visited nine cardamom plantations, had discussions on various topics and collected pest and disease infected samples and soil for testing.

The group meeting as part of the spice clinic started with the welcome address of Shri Shivalingam, Extension Assistant, Field Office, Erode. Dr K. Dhanapal explained the improved cultivation practices and disease management of cardamom. Dr P. Thiyagarajan delivered a lecture on "Insect pest management and importance of entomopathogenic nematode". Shri Kanagadhileepan, Deputy Director, Spices Board explained the various schemes of the Development Department and value addition in cardamom and other spices.



A view of the group meeting

Group Meeting and Spice Clinic Programme

Spices Board Regional Office, Gangtok, Sikkim conducted a group meeting, general awareness programme, field visits and spice clinic programme in collaboration with the Regional Research Station, ICRI, Tadong at Middle Sumin, East Sikkim district on 16 December 2022. Around 30 growers attended the programme. Shri P. T. Lepcha, Deputy Director, Regional Office, Gangtok gave introductory remarks and briefed the various activities of Spices Board in Sikkim region. Dr Sasanka Sekhar Bora, Scientist-C from Regional Research Station, ICRI, Tadong explained the Integrated Pest and Disease Management practices in spices and application of various biofertilizers, bioagents, etc. Various schemes implemented by the Board were also discussed.



Group meeting organised by Spices Board Regional Office, Gangtok in collaboration with the Regional Research Station, ICRI, Tadong

Spices Board in Export-oriented Seminar cum Exhibition

Spices Board Divisional Office, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh participated in the export-oriented seminar-cum-exhibition organised jointly by Tea Board India and the Department of Trade and Commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh on 16 December 2022 at D. K. State Convention Centre, Itanagar. The Board's stall showcasing spices from the state was visited by Shri Hage Tari IOFS, Secretary, Trade and Commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh; Prof. Dr Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director, IIPM, Bengaluru; Ms Arunita Phukan Yadav IRS, Executive Director, Tea Board and Shri Sonyung Modi, Director, Trade and Commerce, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. The officials of Spices Board briefed the activities of the Board to the visitors.



Visitors at Spices Board's stall during the export-oriented seminar-cum-exhibition

Market Linkage Programme in Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office cum Extension Centre, Nizamabad, Telangana organized a market linkage programme in turmeric for farmers at Domchanda village, Mortad mandal, Nizamabad district on 19 December 2022. Around 62 farmers participated in the programme. Shri P. S. Reddy, Village Sarpanch, Domchanda presided over the programme. Technical sessions on turmeric, GAP, post-harvest improvement, value addition etc., were handled by the Deputy Director, Shri R. Rajamanickam, Senior Field Officer and Shri Rohith Kumar, Horticultural Officer. Representatives of leading exporters of spices also participated in the programme and had interactions with farmers and explained in detail the export quality requirements for different countries. Various doubts of the farmers were clarified.



Dignitary speaking at the market linkage programme in turmeric for farmers

Quality Improvement Training Programme for Turmeric Growers

Spices Board Field Office, Koraput, Odisha conducted a quality improvement training programme for turmeric growers at Shanti Maitree Training Centre, Baliguda, Kandhamal district on 20 December 2022. The meeting was chaired by Shri Sanjeeb K. Mohanty, AGM, NABARD, Phulbani, Kandhamal and Smt. Sumitra Bhehra, Sarpanch, Raikia village, Baliguda, Kandhamal. The participants and dignitaries shared their experiences on turmeric cultivation and post-harvest processing. Technical sessions were handled by Shri Bibhu Datta Biswal, ADH, Horticulture Department, Baliguda and Rani Nallabelli, Farm Manager, Field Office, Spices Board, Koraput. Around 61 farmers attended the training. Another training programme for turmeric growers was organised by Spices Board Field Office, Koraput on 29 December 2022 at Rajeev Gandhi Seva Kendra, Pottangi, Koraput district of Odisha. The technical sessions were handled by officials from Horticulture department along with representatives from the Foundation of Sustainability Security and Pottangi Agro Products Producer Pvt Ltd, Pottangi. The training programme was attended by 52 turmeric growers.



Glimpses of the quality improvement training programme for turmeric growers

Students' Exposure Visit

Students pursuing BSc at Krishna College of Agriculture and Technology, Usilampatti, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur and the e-auction centre on 21 December 2022. The Assistant Director, Marketing detailed the export promotion of spices and also the cloud-based e-auction system for Small Cardamom.



Students from Krishna College of Agriculture and Technology at Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur

Training Programme on Organic Farming in Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office cum Extension Centre, Nizamabad, Telangana organised a training programme on organic farming in turmeric for farmers on 21 December 2022 at Parimandal village, Mamda mandal, Nirmal district. The Village Sarpanch, Parimandal village presided over the programme. The Deputy Director, Spices Board explained in detail the basic concepts of organic farming/ use of bio-fertilizers / compost preparations / use of biocontrol agents in pest and disease management in turmeric cultivation and different organic preparations. Shri R. Rajamanickam, Senior Field Officer briefed the schemes of the Board. Various doubts of the farmers were also clarified in the interactive session. Around 56 farmers participated in the programme.



Glimpse of the training programme on organic farming in turmeric

Dr A. Jayathilak IAS visited the Quality Evaluation Laboratory and Regional Office, Kolkata

Dr A. Jayathilak IAS, former Chairman and Secretary of Spices Board, visited the Quality Evaluation Laboratory and Regional Office, Kolkata on 26 December 2022 and reviewed the progress of establishment and working of the QEL. He interacted with the officials and trainees of the Regional Office and QEL.

The officer in-charge explained the analytical services rendered by the lab since its inauguration on 05 February 2021. During his address, Dr A. Jayathilak IAS made a special mention on the timely setting up of the QEL, Kandla and QEL, Mumbai during his tenure on the Board. He also shared his experience during the initial phase of developing the site and setting up of the QEL building at Kolkata.

The infrastructure and facility of modern instruments installed at the QEL, Kolkata helps in Sudan and Aflatoxin analysis using LC MS/MS and HPLC with Fluorescence detector (FD), UPLC/UFLC with Photo Diode Array and FD detector and for heavy metal analysis by Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS). Dr A. Jayathilak IAS also mentioned about developing a Microbiology Lab for conducting microbiology analysis of spices and spice products for export from the Eastern and North Eastern states of India. The officials of the QEL and Regional Office, Kolkata expressed their gratitude for finding time to visit the QEL, Kolkata and for the wishes rendered for the bright future of the lab.



Dr A. Jayathilak IAS with the officials of the QEL and Spices Board Regional Office, Kolkata

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Large Cardamom

Spices Board Divisional Office, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh conducted a quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom in the Large Cardamom growing village Apop, Papum Pare district, Arunachal Pradesh.



Participants after the quality improvement training programme on Large Cardamom



Two-day State Level Seminar on Technological Advancement in Cultivation, Post-harvest Handling and Marketing of Spices

Spices Board participated in the two-day state-level seminar on 'Technological advancement in cultivation, post-harvest handling and marketing of spices' organised by the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat under CSS-MIDH at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh during 21-22 December 2022. During the technical session, the Deputy Director, Spices Board, Regional Office, Guwahati delivered a presentation on 'Advancements in spices cultivation in North East India' and the Assistant Director, Spices Board Divisional Office, Itanagar delivered a lecture on 'Present scenario of spices cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh'. The Deputy Director, Spices Board Regional Office, Guwahati has also chaired a technical session on integrated pest management during the seminar.



Participants of the state level seminar

Outreach Programme on ICAR-IIHR Technologies

Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur, Tamil Nadu organised an outreach programme on ICAR-IIHR technologies to farmers. Farmers from various parts of Theni district, members of FPOs and students from the Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University attended the programme. Scientists of ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research discussed the use of microbial consortium for improving soil health. Arka Coorg Excel, an improved black pepper variety has attracted the attention of farmers during the programme. Microbial consortium and other bio-inputs were supplied to farmers.



Farmers and students with officials of Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur

Master Training Programme

Spices Board Field Office, Koraput, Odisha conducted a master training programme at Regional Research and Technology Transfer Station (RRTTS), Semiliguda, Koraput district on 28 December 2022. Technical sessions were handled by Dr Parsuram Sial, ADR, RRTTS, Semiliguda; Dr M. Manas Pradan, Scientist, KVK, Semiliguda and Smt. Rani Nallabelli, Farm Manager, Field Office, Koraput. A total of 50 officials from departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and NGOs/FPOs attended the training. During the meeting, block-level officials from Agriculture and Horticulture suggested the supply of post-harvest machineries for ginger and tarpaulin sheets under subsidy rates.



A glimpse of the master training programme

Growers' Training Programmes for Coriander

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh conducted a growers' training programme for coriander growers at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh on 28 December 2022. The meeting was chaired by officials from the Department of Horticulture and KVK. Dr Lal Singh, Scientist, KVK, Rajgarh and Dr B. L. Prajapati, Scientist, KVK, Aron handled lectures on Good Agriculture Practices in coriander. Shri B.A. Gudade, Scientist-C and officer-in-charge Regional Office, Guna explained the activities of Spices Board. Shri Ashish Jaiswal, Export Promotion Officer explained the post-harvest management and GHP for coriander. Around 50 stakeholders participated in the programme. Another training programme was organised at KVK, Aron, Guna on 29 December 2022. Technical session on GAP and IPM in coriander was handled by officials of Spices Board.



Glimpses of the growers' training programme for coriander

Quality Improvement Training Programme on Chilli

A quality improvement training programme for chilli was organised by Spices Board Regional Office, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh on 28 December 2022 at Bhimavaram village, Vatsavai mandal, NTR district of Andhra Pradesh. The meeting was inaugurated by Shri Srinivas Reddy, Managing Director, Vatsavai FPO, Bhimavaram. Experts from the Horticulture and Agriculture department of Andhra Pradesh along with representatives from ITC Ltd lead the technical session. Around 70 chilli growers participated in the training programme.

Another quality improvement training programme for chilli was organised by Regional Office, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh on 29 December 2022 at Kanneveedu village, Vatsavai mandal, NTR district of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 63 chilli growers participated in the training programme.



Quality improvement training programme in chilli

Students' Exposure Visit

As a part of the Rural Horticultural Work Experience (RHWE) Programme, students pursuing B.Sc. Honours in Horticulture at the Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Periyakulam, Tamil Nadu visited Spices Board Regional Office, Bodinayakanur on 26 December 2022. Post-harvest technologies, processing of cardamom and black pepper and marketing and export strategies were briefed by the officials.



Students from Horticultural College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Periyakulam at Spices Board Regional Office Bodinayakanur

Regional Seminar on Spices

Spices Board Regional Office, Guna, Madhya Pradesh conducted a regional seminar for coriander growers at Amroda Ashok Nagar on 30 December 2022. Shri Rao Brijendra Singh Yadav, State Minister, Government of Madhya Pradesh was the chief guest. Shri P.C. K. Maheswaran, Coriander Exporter, gave a lecture on quality requirements for coriander and technical session was handled by Dr Akhilesh Srivastava, Head, KVK and Senior Scientist Dr B. L. Prajapati. Around 110 stakeholders participated in the programme.



Glimpses of the regional seminar on spices

Regional Seminar on Turmeric

Spices Board Regional Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra organised a regional seminar on turmeric on 09 December 2022 at Vidul village, Umardhed, Yavatmal. Shri Amolji Yedge IAS, District Collector, Yavatmal was the Chief Guest for the programme and in his address, he encouraged the farmers to increase the productivity of turmeric by meeting national and international quality norms. He highlighted the schemes of Central and State government and encouraged farmers for processing and value addition. Shri Ramdevraoji Sasane, Hon'ble MLA of Umardhed, during the address highlighted the importance of turmeric and encouraged farmers to take up processing of turmeric for better price realization. During the seminar, the State Agriculture Department, KVK, DIC, FPO/FPC deliberated on various issues including quality, food safety, production, post-harvest techniques, value addition, various schemes, value chain and market linkage activities.



Regional seminar on turmeric organised by Spices Board Regional Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Buyer Seller Meet at Hubballi

Spices Board India in collaboration with the State Spices Development Board, Karnataka organised a buyer-seller meet at Hubballi, Karnataka on 22 December 2022. The BSM focused on spices like Byadagi Chilli, other chillies, black pepper, turmeric, ginger and ajwain. The programme aimed at providing a platform for better commerce and trade aimed towards direct linkages of spice farmers from the region. Shri Ravendra Hakathi, General Manager, Karnataka State Spices Development Board extended welcome to the participants. The programme was chaired by Shri Mallikarjunappa, Director, Karnataka State Spices Development Board. The BSM was inaugurated by Shri Vinay Javali, President, Karnataka Chamber of Commerce, Hubballi. Shri B. R. Girish, Managing Director, Karnataka State Spices Development Board and Dr Johncy Manihottam, Deputy Director, Spices Board addressed the participants. The event was attended by 30 exporters and traders, 150 farmers and 15 FPOs.



Dignitary speaking during the inauguration of the Buyer Seller Meet at Hubballi

Mobile Spice Clinic

A mobile spice clinic programme was organised by Indian Cardamom Research Institute and Spices Board Field Office, Kumily, Idukki district, Kerala at Vellaramkunnu on 30 November 2022. Dr K. A. Saju, Dr Manoj Oommen and Dr Thiyagarajan, Scientists, ICRI, Myladumpara were the resource persons. The team visited seven cardamom plantations and suitable IPM with bio-control measures were suggested for disease and pest management. A group meeting was arranged and 16 farmers in the area were present. Smt. Geetha T. K., Extension Assistant and Smt. Prajitha P., Senior Agriculture Demonstrator coordinated the programme.



Group meeting organised during the Spice Clinic

Exposure Visit of Students

Twenty-one students pursuing M.Sc and PhD at University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkote, Karnataka visited ICRI, Myladumpara on 07 December 2022. Dr K. Dhanapal, HOD, Crop Protection and Transfer of Technology welcomed the gathering and gave a brief introduction regarding ICRI. Later, the students were taken to various departmental laboratories. After the laboratory visit, they gained practical knowledge about Small Cardamom.



Students and teachers from the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkote with Scientists of ICRI, Myladumpara

Visit of Officials from Uttar Pradesh

Thirteen officials including Deputy Directors and Joint Directors from Uttar Pradesh visited ICRI, Myladumpara on 18 December 2022. The Scientists of ICRI explained various research programmes carried out in the institute.

Visit to Edamalakkudy Tribal Area

Scientists from ICRI, Myladumpara, Dr K. Dhanapal and Dr John Jo Varghese visited Edamalakkudy tribal area in Idukki district with the MLA, District Forest Officer and Sub Collector Devikulam, Idukki, Kerala for discussing the development of Cardamom plantation in Edamalakkudy tribal area.



Farmers and officials during the meeting

Online Issuance of Auctioneer License- Onboarding into National Single Window System (NSWS).



Government of India, as a part of facilitating ease of doing business, has implemented a National Single Window System (NSWS) that will allow stakeholders to identify and apply for various approvals required for doing business in India. The National Single Window System (NSWS) is a digital platform to guide the stakeholders in identifying and applying for approvals according to their business requirements.

Spices Board has onboarded the issuance of Cardamom Auctioneer License for small and large cardamom to NSWS thereby facilitating ease of doing Business. National Single Window System (NSWS) can be accessed at <https://www.nsws.gov.in/>.

Any applicant may submit application in NSWS Portal during the block period for issuance. The License is valid for a block period of three years and for the current block period upto 31st August 2023. The license is issued for conducting e-auction for small cardamom at Spices Board's e-auction centres at Puttady in Kerala and Bodinaykannur in Tamil Nadu, manual auction for small cardamom in other than states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and manual auction for large cardamom.

Those who are having valid auctioneer license shall renew the license on or before 30th June of the year in which the license expires by applying through the NSWS Portal.

All the stakeholders who wish to obtain Cardamom Auctioneer License are requested to make use of NSWS for submission of their online applications. The present system of receipt of physical application will be discarded. Before proceeding to file online application for Cardamom Auctioneer License, all are advised to read the user manual for registration in NSWS may be referred in the link [https://www.nsws.gov.in/portal/user-guide_user_manual_of_filing_application_for_Cardamom_Auctioneer_License_\(Annex_I\)_user_guidelines_for_auctioneer_licence_\(Annex_II\)_terms_and_conditions_of_Auctioneer_licence_\(Annex_III\)_issued_in_the_portal](https://www.nsws.gov.in/portal/user-guide_user_manual_of_filing_application_for_Cardamom_Auctioneer_License_(Annex_I)_user_guidelines_for_auctioneer_licence_(Annex_II)_terms_and_conditions_of_Auctioneer_licence_(Annex_III)_issued_in_the_portal).

The application fee shall be made through the Payment Gateway of NSWS. The applicable transaction bank charges will be extra and shall be borne by the applicant.

For more details click: <http://www.indianspices.com/trade/trade-notifications/notificationdetails.html?id=369>



Know Your GI Spice Sangli Turmeric

Participation in the National Level Winter School

Scientists of ICRI, Regional Research Station, Tadong, Sikkim served as resource personnel in the 21-days National Level Winter School entitled 'Advances in Organic Production System in Sikkim Himalayas' organised by ICAR, Gangtok. Dr D. Ajay, Scientist-C and in-charge delivered a lecture on "Organic Cultivation of Large Cardamom (*Amomum subulatum* Roxb)" and Dr T. N. Deka, Scientist-C spoke on "Post Harvest and Marketing of Large Cardamom". The programme was attended by Scientists/Subject Matter Specialists of ICAR Institutions and Assistant Professors from various Universities across the country.



Resource persons and participants of the winter school

Sangli is one of India's key turmeric trading centres, situated in the state of Maharashtra. The popularity of Sangli Turmeric is attributed to its colour and aroma. It is the indigenous storage system 'peve', devised over 100 years ago, that helps to store Sangli Turmeric. The peculiar colour, curcumin content and aroma of Sangli Turmeric is enhanced due to the underground air-tight storage and physical properties of soil. Sangli Turmeric is often referred to as 'saffron coloured spice'. The main feature of Sangli Turmeric is that its colour remains same from inside and outside unlike other turmeric varieties. The cured rhizomes are long, bold and attractive. Sangli Turmeric can be stored for more than two years without any storage pests because of the underground air-tight traditional storage system and without any quality deterioration.



CIRCULARS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Circular No: Mkt-Auc/Schedule/01/2018- Special e-Auction - Sample Testing Charges Revision

<http://www.indianspices.com/trade/trade-notifications/notificationdetails.html?id=365>

Circular No : 20/2022-23- Information on Registration Regulations Prescribed by People's Republic of China – Reg.

<http://www.indianspices.com/trade/trade-notifications/notificationdetails.html?id=363>

Requirement of Health Certificate for Pesticides for export consignments of Curry Leaves to EU – Reg.

<http://www.indianspices.com/trade/trade-notifications/notificationdetails.html?id=370>



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

Your valuable comments/ feedback may be sent to

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