

The 82nd Meeting of the Spices Board was held at Gandhi University Convention Centre, Ahmedabad, on 29th February 2016 at 3 pm

Dr.A. Jayathilak IAS, Chairman, Spices Board, presided over the Meeting

The following members were present:

- 1.Mr. Bhaskar Shah, Vice-Chairman
- 2.Mr. B.M. Muniraju
- 3.Mr. E.M Augusthy
- 4.Dr. Viju Jacob
- 5 Mr. Jojo George
- 6 Mr. Khorlo Bhutia,
- 7 Dr. M. Anandaraj
- 8 Mr. Ravela Gopalakrishna
- 9 Mr. Nagarajan, representing Director, CFTRI, Mysore
10. Mr. Zia-ud-din Ahmed
11. Ms.Anita Karnavar
12. Dr. N.C Saha
13. Mr. Anjo T. Jose
- 14.Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

- 1.Mr. S. Thangavelu, Hon'be MP (Rajya Sabha)
- 2 Mr. B.S. Yeddyurappa, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha)
- 3.Mr. Pratap Simha, Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha)
- 4.Ms. Anita Karn, Director Plantations , MoC
5. Mr. Rupa Dutta IES, Director (Fin), MoC
6. Mrs.Vijayalaxmi, Phalada Agro Research Foundations Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore.

The following members were absent:

- 1.Mr.D.V. R Rajiv Mohan, M/s.ITC Ltd, Kolkata.
- 2.The Director, Planning Commission, New Delhi
- 3.Mr.Kumarlal M Thailiani, Partner, M/s.Asian food Industries, Gujarat.
- 4.Secretary (Hort.), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
- 5.Secretary (Hort) Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

6. Mr. Hatobin Mai, OSD to Chief Ministry, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
7. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture New Delhi
8. Mr. Ajith Thomas, AVT MC-Cormick Ingredients Pvt. Ltd, Chennai.

The following officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri.S. Kannan, Director (Marketing) & Secretary-in-charge
2. CA K.C. Babu, Director (Finance)
3. Shri.S. Siddaramappa, Director (Dev)
4. Dr.Y.S. Rao, Director (Res)-in-charge

At the outset, Chairman, Spices Board welcomed and thanked all the members who had come to attend the World Spice Congress 2016 and 82nd Board Meeting at Ahmedabad. He initially briefed about the reduction of about 30% budget allocation for the period 2016-17 to Commodity Boards by the Government.

ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 81st MEETING OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT GANGTOK ON 19th DECEMBER 2015

Since no comments were received from the members on the 81st Meeting, the Board confirmed the Minutes.

ITEM No.2: ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS OF THE 81st BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19th DECEMBER 2015

While presenting the action taken report on other discussions, the following were suggested by the Members.

- a. The members appreciated the Board for conducting the National Seminar on Spices at Kumily during 20th & 21st January 2016
- b. Requested the Govt. of Sikkim for early alienating the 4 acres of land to the Spices Board for establishing the Spices Complex in Gangtok
- c. The Members congratulated the Chairman for successful conduct of the World Spice Congress 2016, which had a record participation of around 800 domestic and 200 overseas delegates from 34 countries.

d. The members requested the Board to have a wide publicity campaign on the problem being faced due to the reported addition of green colour to cardamom and also alerting the FSSAI to take action on such activity, which is mostly performed during the use of the commercial dryers.

ITEM NO.3: SCHEME FOR AWARDING LARGE CARDAMOM GROWERS 2015-16

The Board ratified the action taken by the Chairman regarding selection of following farmers for award as per the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee, to promote healthy competition among the growers for increasing the productivity in large cardamom and also to issue merit certificates to two nominees during the Award Function.

1st Prize

Shri Samten Lepcha
Upper Heegyathang,
Heegyathang P O 2179 kg/ha. [dry]
Lower Dzangu
North Sikkim
Sikkim

2nd Prize

Shri Hasta Bahadur Mangar
Sherpa Gaon Busty
Lava p O 1616 Kg/ha [dry]
Kalimpong
Darjeeling Dist.
West Bengal

2nd Prize [Woman grower]

Smt. Chamden Bhutia
Namok Busty
Namok P O
North Sikkim 1511 kg/ ha [dry]
Sikkim

Merit Certificate
Shri Harka Man Khawas
Suruk Busty
Todey P O 1161 Kg/ha [dry]
Kalimpong
Darjeeing Dist.
West Bengal

Shri Chandra Bahadur Chettri
Heepatal Busty
Heegaon P O 937 Kg/ha [dry]
West Sikkim, Sikkim.

**ITEM NO.4: SCHEME FOR AWARDING SMALL CARDAMOM GROWERS
- 2015-16**

The Board ratified the action taken by the Chairman for distribution of small cardamom Award to promote healthy competition among the growers for increasing the productivity in Small cardamom for the period 2015-16 as per the recommendation of the Evaluation Committees for Kerala and Karnataka.

1st Prize
Shri. C M Mathew
Chengathadathil Estate
Plamala, Kallar-VAttiar P O 6800 Kg/ ha. [dry]
Idukki District.
Kerala

2nd Prize
Shri. Vasantha Kumar
Lumbini, Near Basava Mandir 2878Kg/ha. [dry]
[rounded]
Bye-pass Road, Chikmangalur
Karnataka

2nd Prize [Woman category]

Smt. Sonia Menuvin

Mundaplackal, Ayyappancoil P O 2300 Kg/ha [dry]

Marykulam, Idukki Dist.

Kerala

The Director Dev explained the procedure followed for selecting the applicant and also clarified that the farmers were selected for award on the basis of productivity, and not on the basis of quality of cardamom produced. The members suggested to conduct the selection of award winners during the harvesting season and releasing a press advertisement for inviting more applications. The Board noted the suggestion.

ITEM NO. 5 : REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SPICES ORGANIZED AT KUMILY UNDER MIDH

The members appreciated the Board for the conduct of the National Seminar on Spices at Kumily on 20-21 January 2016 and also suggested that for future seminars considering the importance of packing, the IIP may also be invited to speak on packaging. The Members requested the Chairman to establish a leaf analysis lab at ICRI, Myladumpara, and also requested to establish a Mobile Spice Clinic for collecting the leaf/soil samples from the farmers' field for providing appropriate advice to the small farmers. It is further stated that the testing should be individual farmer based and location specific testing is required at every season on soil pH and micro nutrients.

ITEM NO.6: STATUS REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SPICE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SDA)

The Board noted the status report on establishment of Spice Development Agencies.

ITEM No. 7: THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY SPICES BOARD IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

The Board appreciated the action taken by the Chairman under the Look East Policy of Government of India, and implementing special programmes for development of spices in North Eastern Region.

Chairman informed that Spices Board had designed "Sikkim Organic" logo for the organic items produced from Sikkim which was digitally launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim and other Ministers & officials on 18th January

2016 at Gangtok on the occasion of declaring Sikkim as Organic State. Spices Board had organised a Buyer Seller meet (BSM) to facilitate Sikkim farmers to sell their produce directly to the exporters and provided an opportunity to display the wide range of their products through the Board's stall during the Organic festival from 19th January 2016 to 20th January 2016. Over 40 Spice farmers & 22 exporters/traders from across the country had taken part in the BSM which provided a platform for the spice growers of Sikkim to establish direct trade linkages with exporters/traders by avoiding middlemen.

Chairman also informed that sufficient staff have been posted in the NER offices and assured that the Board will continue the programmes for the development of NER and to ensure this, the length of service of employees posted to North East would not be reduced below 2 years in any case.

ITEM NO.8: PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR RELIABLY OUTSOURCING THE TESTING OF SPICES AND SPICE PRODUCTS: A PREPARATORY EXERCISE TO FACE FUTURE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Chairman explained the growing need for testing as well as increasing the number of parameters required to be tested and projected the importance of equipping the laboratories for meeting the growing need. He further explained that the proposal is only a safeguarding measure and the Board avail the outsourcing facility for testing / certification only when required. The laboratories selected for undertaking the testing will be similar to the Spices Board's laboratories with NABL accreditation. Since, the Board is responsible for the quality of analysis and test results, certification of the third party, the Board will take every care including not disclosing the parties name and other details of the samples through a coding system to maintain complete secrecy on the sampling & certification. After a detailed discussion on the above, the Board approved the proposal of the pilot study for outsourcing the laboratory facilities for testing of spices and spice products.

ITEM NO.9: STATUS OF CONSIGNMENT SAMPLES ANALYZED BY QUALITY EVALUATION LABORATORY

The Board noted the details.

ITEM NO.10: REVIEW ON EXPORT OF SPICES DURING APRIL – OCT 2015

The Board noted the details.

ITEM NO.11: STATUS REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALITY EVALUATION LABS IN KOLKATA, KANDLA AND MUMBAI

The Board noted the details.

ITEM NO.12: STATUS AND LOCATIONS OF SPICES PARKS IN THE COUNTRY

The Board noted the status of spices parks in the country.

ITEM NO.13: AMENDMENTS IN SPICES BOARD (RECRUITMENT) REGULATION 2010

As per the details presented on the subject, the Board approved the amendments made in the RR of the Section Officer, Personal Assistants and Assistant Director (Admn) for making appointment / granting promotion. Considering the need for filling up of the post of Director(Res) and Director (Fin) with a most suitable candidates, the changes made in the eligibility criteria, method of recruitment and amendment made in the RR for the post of Director(Res) and Director (Fin) were approved by the Board.

Other Decisions:

The Members requested Chairman regarding fixation of reserve price for cardamom. Chairman informed that the farmers are expecting the Board to buy cardamom and the Government has not allotted the required fund. Hence it may not be feasible for the Board to implement the same.

With regard to the reported duplicate / adulterated cumin seeds exported through Kandla Port Mr. Nagarajan Rep. CFTRI has suggested for testing cumin seed through IR sensor to identify the contamination / adulteration. Hence, Mr.Bhaskar Shah has been asked to send different samples for appropriate testing.

Mr. Kurlo Bhutia has informed the Board on ICRI/ NRC organic farming scheme being implemented in Sikkim. He also suggested the Board to approach NRC to reduce the manpower cost and to make use of the infrastructure available with the Board. Accordingly, Director (Research) has been asked to explore the possibility of working with NRC, including functioning of the research division under NRC. It was also suggested to have a presentation on the Indian Research findings and achievements in spices in the next World Spice Congress.

At the end all the members once again congratulated the Chairman on the success of the World Spice Congress which had good participation, presentation, interaction with buyers and found to be very useful for the development of the Indian Spice Industry. Chairman informed that the tenure of the present Vice Chairman representing Exporters, has already been completed and the next Vice Chairman has to be selected from the Farmers' representatives. Accordingly, all the members of the Board unanimously selected Adv.E.M Augusthy as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Spices Board welcomed Adv. E.M. Augusthy as the new Vice-Chairman and thanked Mr.Bhaskar Shah for his contributions to spice industry as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Chairman thanked all the members for their active participation, and the meeting came to an end.

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