

MINUTES OF THE 59TH MEETING OF THE SPICES BOARD HELD ON
16TH FEBRUARY 2007

The 59th meeting of the Spices Board was held at 2.30 p.m. on 16th February 2007 at Board's Office, Cochin.

Shri.V.J.Kurian, IAS, Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

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| 1. Shri.Sajan Kurian Kalarickal | Vice Chairman |
| 2. Shri.Prashant Goyal, IAS | Member |
| 3. Shri.K.George Joseph, IAS | " |
| 4. Shri.D.M.Kathir Anand | " |
| 5. Shri.T.Asokkumar | " |
| 6. Shri.N.Jehangir | " |
| 7. Shri.Tamil Selvan (rep. Horticulture Commissioner) | |

Leave of absence was granted to the following:

1. Shri.Anant Kumar Hegde, M.P.
2. Smt.Daggubati Purandareswari, M.P.
3.]Shri.K.P.K.Kumaran, M.P. (RS)
4. Shri.V.D.Alam
5. Shri.Rajiv Dhar
6. Dr.V.Prakash
7. Dr.V.A.Parthasarathy
8. Dr.U.Venkateswaralu
9. Dr.Renu S Parmar
10. The Agriculture Production Commissioner, Govt. of Kerala
11. Shri.Vishvanath Okte

The following officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri.V.K.K.Nair, Secretary
2. Shri.S.Kannan, Director [Mktg]
3. Dr.J.Thomas, Director [Res]
4. Shri.P.T.John, Director [Dev]

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members and regretted the inconvenience caused to the members due to lack of quorum in the original meeting fixed on the previous day ie. the 15 February 2007 at 2.30 p.m.. Following this the agenda items were taken up for consideration.

**Item No. 1: Confirmation of the minutes of the Board meeting held on
17.10.2006**

Confirmed.

**Item No.2 : Notes on action taken on the decisions of the meeting of the
Board held on 17.10.2006**

Noted.

**Item No.3 : WTO Compatible subsidy scheme for export of
pepper and
value added products of pepper**

The details of the scheme were explained. The scheme came into operation on 27th October 2005 and in terms of applications it has reached the ceiling of 20,000 MT on 2nd February 2007. The farmers have requested for extension of the scheme for further quantity and it is under the consideration of the Ministry.

The Board noted the position.

**Item No.4 : Replanting loan case of Smt.K.A.Krishnambal -
Settlement of dues**

Approved.

Latest figures up to the end of January 2007 were circulated. The Board appreciated the export performance during the current year.

**Item No.5 : Establishment of Mobile Agriclinic Unit at
Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI),
Myladumpara**

The details of the project were explained. Shri.Kathir Anand requested to extend the same to other spices. Chairman informed that this is only a pilot project and based on its success, the Board can consider extension of the same to other spices also. Board is trying to get the required funds from the State Government; if the same is not forthcoming, Board's funds will be utilized. To a query from Shri.George Joseph, it was clarified that the service of the mobile clinic would be free.

**Item No.6 : Implementation of Flexible complementing scheme
(FCS) for the Scientists of the Spices Board**

The details of the scheme were explained. Board took note of the scheme and proposal to implement the same.

**Item No.7 : Trophies & Awards for excellence in spice
exports for the year 2004-05**

Shri.Kathir Anand suggested to consider separate awards for export of ground and whole form of spices. Chairman informed that this suggestion could be examined in the Task Force Committees.

Item No.8 : Large cardamom productivity award

Approved.

Item No.9 : Organic Vanilla award

Approved.

**Item No.10 : Review on export performance of spices during
April-December 2006 compared to April-December
2005**

Latest figures up to the end of January 2007 were circulated. The Board appreciated the export performance during the current year.

Item No.11 : Import of spices into India during April-December 2006 compared to April-December 2005

Noted.

Item No. 12 : Promoting a Company to procure, process and market Cardamom and other Spices/Spice Products in domestic and overseas market.

The Board deliberated on the proposal in detail. The Chairman clarified that the Board is only a facilitator and no fund of the Board is proposed to be invested for the working of the Company. Money in the Cardamom Development Fund is proposed to be utilized by the Company. The members felt that it would be desirable for the Chairman, Spices Board to have a considerable say in the activities of the Company.

Item No. 13: Audit Report/Certified Accounts on Spices Board 2005-06

Noted.

The meeting came to a close at 3.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.