

**MINUTES OF THE 62<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE SPICES BOARD  
HELD ON 28.1.2008**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Spices Board was held at 11.00 AM on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2008 at Goa.

Shri V.J. Kurian, IAS, Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting. The following members were present :

1. Shri Sajan Kurian	Vice-Chairman
2. Shri T. Asok Kumar	Member
3. Shri Balkaran Patel	“”
4. Shri K.V.Peter	“”
5. Shri H.Vishwanath	“”
6. Shri George Joseph, IAS	“”
7. Shri V.D. Alam	“”
8. Dr.V.A. Parthasarathy	“”
9. Shri Rajiv Dhar	“”

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1. Dr. V. Prakash
2. Shri K. Jayakumar
3. Dr.G.S.G.Ayyangar
4. Dr. M.L. Chowdhury
5. Shri Raj Singh
6. Dr.Renu S. Parmar
7. Shri K.N. Hazarika, Special Invitee
8. Shri Tiruchi Siva, MP (RS) (Late on arrival)

Absent

1. Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, MP (LS)
2. Smt.Daggubati Purandeswary, MP (Minister of State for Human Resources Development (School Education & Literacy)
3. Shri N. Jehangir
4. Shri Viswanath Okte
5. Shri D.M. Kathir Anand
6. Shri J.V. Narayanaswamy
7. Shri N.V. Srirama Reddy

The following officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri V.K.K. Nair, Secretary
2. Shri S. Kannan, Director (Mktg)
3. Dr. Charles J Kithu, Director (Fin)
4. Dr. J. Thomas, Director (Res)
5. Shri R. Chandrasekhar, Director (Dev)

At the outset, Chairman welcomed all the members, especially the new member Shri Viswanath to the Board meeting being held at Goa, the venue of the World Spice Congress, 2008.

Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for consideration.

**Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 19.11.2007**

Confirmed.

**Item No.2: Action taken on the decisions of the meeting of the Board held on 19.11.2007**

Noted.

**Item No.3: Supply of HDPE Tarpaulin sheets**

Noted.

Shri Rajiv Dhar emphasized the need for stipulating appropriate specifications to ensure proper quality of HDPE tarpaulin sheets. In this connection, IIP was requested to suggest appropriate specifications for the HDPE tarpaulin sheets as well as alternatives, if any, for distribution among the spices growers for hygienic drying of the spices.

**Item No.4: Plantation Welfare Scheme of the Board – Enhancement of Budget for giving Grant-in-aid to Educational and Medical institutions.**

Approved.

**Item No.5: E-Auction system for Cardamom (Small) at Bodinayakannur and Vandanmettu**

Noted.

The Members familiar with the auction system expressed the view that e-auction system introduced was a very good initiative and the various stakeholders of the industry were happy regarding the outcome of the e-auction system introduced at Bodinayakanur and Vandanmettu.

There was a suggestion to provide sample to the highest bidder only after the completion of the auction to keep up the anonymity of the bidder, which was agreed to. There was another suggestion to conduct socio-economic study to assess impact of the new system after a reasonable period. The members felt that the centralized auction system should continue instead of allowing auctioneers to set up e-auction system at their own premises. It was also decided to form a Committee consisting of Director (Mktg) and Director (Fin) to look into the recurring expenditure of conducting e-auction system and recommend a user fee to be collected from each auctioneer to meet the cost of operation.

**Item No.6: Visit of High Power Delegation from United States of America**

Noted.

The members complemented the Board for arranging the visit of the Secretary, Health & Human Services and the FDA Commissioner from the USA and arranging interface with the Indian spices exporters.

**Item No.7: Export performance of Spices during April-December, 2007 as compared to April-December, 2006**

Noted.

The members appreciated the export performance achieved during the period April-December, 2007. A suggestion was made to study the reasons for the growth of spices exports in spite of rupee appreciation so as to establish whether this was due to the quality improvement of Indian spices.

**Item No.8: Trophies & Awards for excellence in Spices Exports for the years 2005-06 & 2006-07**

The winners for trophies and awards recommended by the Awards Sub-Committee for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 were approved by the Board. As regards award for the new product, it was proposed to consider only high-value products introduced and marketed abroad for consideration.

**General:**

Chairman requested the members to take part in the World Spice Congress at Taj Exotica, Goa scheduled during 28<sup>th</sup> to 30th January, 2008.

The meeting came to an end at 1.00 P.M. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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