

MINUTES OF THE 77TH MEETING OF THE SPICES BOARD HELD
ON 23rd JUNE, 2014 AT COCHIN

The 77th Meeting of the Spices Board was held at 2.30 PM on 23rd June, 2014 in the Head Office at Kochi. Dr.A.Jayathilak, IAS, Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

- 1 Dr. N C Saha
- 2 Dr.Tamil Selvan, Additional Commissioner(Horticulture), Ministry of Agriculture –
Nominee of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary & Mission Director
(NHM) Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi
- 3 Shri C Srivenkateswara Rao – representative of major Spice producing State - AP
- 4 Shri Ravela Gopalakrishna
- 5 Shri B M Muniraju
- 6 Shri Jojo George
- 7 Dr.N L M Tripathi - representative of major Spice producing State - UP
- 8 Mrs Vijayalakshmi Rajesh
- 9 Shri Anjo Jose
- 10 Shri E K Vasu
- 11 Shri E M Augusthy
- 12 Shri K Zia-ud-din-Ahamed
- 13 Shri Bhaskar Shah
- 14 Dr.Hatobin Mai
- 15 Dr.M Anandraj

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1. Mrs Anita Karnavar
2. Mrs Vandana Yadav, Director, MoC
3. Director, Finance Division, MoC
4. Shri Viju Jacob
5. Shri Ajith Thomas
6. Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal
7. Shri Ram Rajasekharan
8. Shri Mansingh Parsoda
9. Shri Kumarlal Thailaiani

The following members were absent:

1. Mrs.Sutapa Majumder
2. Shri S Thangavelu
3. Dr.V R Rajiv Mohan
4. Representative of Govt. of Sikkim

The following Officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri P.M.Sureshkumar, Secretary
2. Shri S.Kannan, Director [Finance]
3. Shri S.Siddaramappa, Director [Dev]
4. Dr.M.R.Sudharshan, Director [Res]
5. Shri K.C.Babu. Director [Marketing]
6. Dr.P.S.S.Thampi, Dy.Director [Pub]
7. Shri Gaurav Dwivedi, Dy.Director [Admn]
8. Dr.G.K.Vidyashankar, Dy.Director [Mktg]
9. Shri Roy Joseph, Dy.Director [P & C]
10. Shri K.Jagannathan, Asst.Director [Mktg]
11. Shri A.P.Beneeshmon, Asst. Director [Accts]
12. Shri N.Ramesh Babu. Scientist

At the outset, Chairman, Spices Board welcomed all the members to the newly constituted Board. In his opening remarks, Chairman briefed the members about the objectives and activities of the Spices Board in the various sectors of the industry. Chairman requested Mr.S.Kannan, Director [Finance] to make a presentation of Board's activities of the Spices. Accordingly, Mr.Kannan made a detailed power point presentation. The members thanked Chairman and Director [Finance] for the presentation.

After the presentation, the items on the agenda were taken up for discussions:

Item No:1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 76th Meeting of the Spices Board held on 6th November, 2012

Confirmed.

Item No:2: Action taken report on the decisions of the 76th Meeting of the Spices Board held on 6th November, 2012:

Secretary briefed the action taken on the decisions of the previous Board meeting and the Board noted the same.

Item No:3:Approval of the Final Accounts of the Board for the period from 01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014:

Director [Finance] detailed the final accounts of the Board for the period from 01/04/2013 to 31/03/2014. The Board approved.

Item No:4: Approval of the GPF balances incorporated in the final accounts of the Board for 2012-13:

The Board ratified the action taken by the Spices Board.

Item No:5: Writing off of analytical charges receivable under the head "Income Accrued":

The members observed that the charges are not actually receivable. It is the amount

accumulated over a period that should have been adjusted on an yearly basis against the analytical charges received through e-payment from exporters. Therefore, the note to accounts was rephrased as “Analytical charges amounting to Rs.4544736.99 was lying as receivable since financial year 2010-11. The amount is not actually receivable. Since the amount was booked again under the head 'received' and could not trace back to the concerned exporter/party it was remained as receivable. Hence as suggested by the audit, the amount is charged to income and expenditure account.”

Item No:6: Introduction of Spice Care – A Welfare measure to the retired employees of the Board:

Secretary explained the salient features of the scheme. The Board ratified the action taken.

Item No:7: Formation of Codex Committee on Spices & Culinary Herbs and working of Secretariat in Spices Board:

Dr.P.S.S.Thampi briefed the members about the formation of the CCSCH Secretariat in Spices Board, Cochin and successful conduct of the first session of the CCSCH in Cochin during February, 2014. Chairman informed the members that Dr..M.R.Sudharshan, Director(Research) is the Chairman of CCSCH.

The Board noted.

Item No:8: Approval of XII Plan Proposals [2012-17] for Rs.670 crores:

Director [Finance] briefed the plan proposals. The Board has prepared detailed project proposals under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture [MIDH] and submitted to all States and Union Territories, as well as to Ministry of Commerce & Industry. Shri E.M.Augusthy, member appreciated the pepper development programme undertaken by the Board under NHM and suggested that the Board may continue the pepper development programme in Idukki district instead of entrusting to the State Dept. Chairman informed the members that the mandate of the Spices Board is only on R& D and marketing of Cardamom. Development of Pepper & all other Spices vests under the Ministry of Agriculture through the State Govt. He informed the members to request the Govt. of Kerala to follow up the proposals for approval. Chairman also sought the support of Dr.Tamilselvan, Additional Commissioner(Horticulture), Ministry of Agriculture for approval and sanction of fund under MIDH.

Item No:9: Small Cardamom Productivity Award during 2012 – 13 & 2013-14:

Director [Dev] explained the nominations received for the Awards. The Board approved.

Item No:10: Large Cardamom Productivity Award during 2012 – 13 & 2013-14:

Director [Dev] explained the details and the Board approved.

Item No:11: Pilot Programme for providing fish net for the management of monkey menace in the cardamom plantations of Karnataka:

Director [Dev] explained the programme. The Board noted.

Item No:12: Integrated Project proposals for development of Spices in various States under MIDH:

Chairman informed the members the importance of the above proposals and requested the members to use their good offices for sanctioning the proposals from the respective State Govts. The Board noted.

The members requested for MIDH project proposals, for follow up action. It was decided to give copies of the proposals to the members.

Item No:13: Export Oriented Production:

Noted. This item was covered in item No:8.

Item No:14: Closing down/ relocation of Board's Offices:

Noted.

Item No:15: Issue of Cardamom Registration Certificate in Kerala:

Director [Dev] explained the details of the Cardamom Registration in Kerala. The Board noted.

Item No:16: Spice House Certification:

Noted.

Item No:17: Status of the proposed Spices Park in Meghalaya:

Noted.

Item No:18: Status of the proposed Spices Park in Karnataka:

Noted. The members from Karnataka viz: Shri B.M.Muniraju and Mrs.Vijayalakshmi Rajesh requested the Chairman to explore the possibility of setting up Spices Park for other Spices also. Chairman informed that they may take up the proposal with the State Govt.

Item No: 19: Status of Spices Parks established / under establishment:

The Board noted the status of Spices Park. Director [Marketing] explained the details of the Spices Parks already set up in various places in the country. The Spices Park in Mehsana could not be commenced due to legal issues. Shri Bhaskar Shah offered his support in obtaining land for setting up the Spices Park in Unjah, Gujarat and at Navi Mumbai.

Item No:20: Status Note on Quality Evaluation Lab cum Training Centre:

Noted.

Item No:21: Promotion of Indian Spices Logo – Amendment in Regulation:

Director [Marketing] informed about the need for amending the Regulations. After detailed discussions, the Board considered the proposal for amending the Regulations.

Item No:22: Cardamom [Licensing & Marketing] Rules 2014:

Director [Marketing] detailed the proposal. After detailed discussions, it was decided that, to safeguard the interests of the stakeholders of the industry, the existing Rules may be followed. The Board noted.

Item No:23: Amendment of Cardamom [Licensing & Marketing] Rules, 2014:

Sri Jojo George suggested that the period of 7 days and 10 days prescribed for settling the account by the Dealer to the Auctioneer and Auctioneer to the grower respectively be modified as 10 days and 12 days so as to facilitate smooth settlement of account. The Chairman agreed to look into the suggestion as the Amendment decided upon earlier is now being vetted by the Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India.

Noted.

Item No: 24: ICRI Activities:

Director [Res] briefed the research activities undertaken by the Indian Cardamom Research Institute in various locations in the country. He explained about the Dream Projects prepared by the Scientists of ICRI, as per Chairman's initiatives, which was appreciated.

Item No:25: Election of Vice – Chairman and Sub-Committees:

Shri Bhaskar Shah of M/s. Jobs International, Mumbai was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Board for one year. The members congratulated and welcomed the new Vice-Chairman.

1. Executive Committee:

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee:

1. Shri E.M.Augusthy
2. Shri Zia-ud-din Ahmed
3. Shri C.Srivenkateswara Rao

2. Research & Development Committee for Cardamom:

The following members were elected to the Research & Development Committee:

1. Dr.Hatobin Mai
2. Shri E.K.Vasu
3. Shri Anjo Jose

3. Market Development Committee for Spices:

The following members were elected to the Market Development Committee:

1. Shri Jojo George
2. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi
3. Shri Muniraju

It was decided to keep open two options for the members who were not able to attend this meeting.

Additional Items:

No:1: Status Note on Quality Evaluation Lab cum Training Centre:

Noted. Already covered in Item No:20

No:2: Dream Projects on Research:

Noted.

No:3: Quality Improvement Training Programme Schedule for 2014-15:

Noted.

No:4: Scheme for grant of Award to the top most exporters of Spices & Spice Products:

Noted & approved.

No:5: Proposed new Quality Evaluation Lab in Mumbai:

Noted.

No:6: Establishment of Signature Stall at Lulu Mall:

Noted & approved.

No:7: Proposal for establishing a Spice Museum at Port Trust, W/Island, Kochi:

Chairman informed about the allotment of 15 cents of land free of cost to Spices Board by the Cochin Port Trust for a world class Spice Museum. The members appreciated the proposal.

No:8: Proposed inter-institute collaborative project on development and validation of multi-residue

analysis methods for pesticides in Spices Matrix:

Director [Res] explained about the testing method adopted by the NRCG with GCMSMS & LCMSMS, as a pilot project. Mrs.Vijayalakshmi wanted to know the number of pesticides tested by them. Director [Res] clarified the position.

Other items discussed

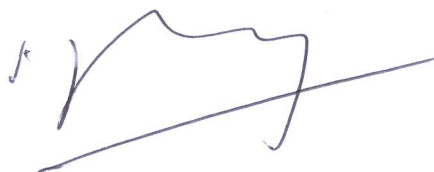
On completion of discussions on agenda items, Chairman informed the members that if any other items are to be discussed, the floor is open for suggestions / discussions.

Dr.Hatobin Mai, Shri Zia-ud-din Ahmed, Shri Bhaskar Shah, Shri Jojo George, Dr.Tripathi, Smt.Vijayalakshmi, Shri Ravela Gopalakrishna and Shri Muniraju suggested various proposals. After detailed discussions, Chairman summed up the decisions as follows:

1. The impact of the Spices Board in the North Eastern region of India has been very minimal. There has not been sufficient infrastructure or manpower. The Spices Board would strengthen its offices all over North East by posting additional manpower of requisite levels and upgrade office infrastructure. Awareness campaigns would be conducted and thrust would be on organic spices. The subsidy for Large Cardamom would be increased and a pilot project to protect the crops from animals would be implemented in Arunachal Pradesh this year.
2. After feasibility study, sorting and grading machines would be established at Bodinayakanur
3. Post-harvest improvement and quality training programmes in Uttar Pradesh would be strengthened since mint occupies a prime position in the export of spices.
4. Steam sterilization plant and quality lab will be considered along with the Haveri Spices Park.
5. Visit to Guatemala would be arranged with the active participation of willing cardamom growers.
6. IPM kits would be distributed to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh in time. The subsidy for chilli farmers would be proposed under MIDH.
7. Chamarajanagar region would be included in the MIDH proposal for Karnataka.
8. The delay in cumin sample analysis would be examined and suitable action taken.

Chairman informed the members that all possible schemes / projects will be implemented for the benefit of the farmers and exporting community with the active support from State Govts. and member representatives of the Board.

The meeting came to a close at 5.30 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that is difficult to decipher. The signature is written over a horizontal line.