

## MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF GUWAHATI SPICE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (GSDA)

The first meeting of the Guwahati Spice Development Agency was held at 3.30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 at the conference hall of the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, Dispur.

Shri VK Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt of Assam & Chairperson, GSDA presided over the meeting.

The following members were present.

1. Shri AmlanBaruah IAS, Secretary (Agriculture), Govt of Assam representing Shri V B Pyarelal IAS, Additional Chief Secretary and APC, Govt of Assam
2. Dr Hatobin Mai, OSD to the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh & Member, Spices Board
3. Shri B R Khakhlary, Asst DGFT, Guwahati
4. Shri Timothy Das Hanse, Director of Horticulture, Assam
5. Dr.GirindraNath Hazarika, Director of Research, Assam Agricultural University
6. Shri GautamGoswami, C/o Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd (APPL)
7. Shri Jiten Sarangfangsa, GINFED, Diphu
8. Shri Pankaj Hazarika
9. Shri Deepak Paul, Aroma P Ltd
10. Ms Leena Saikia, Frontal Agritech Pvt Ltd
11. Shri Vivek, M/s Balajee Trading Co.Ltd
12. Shri Md Misbahuddin, Chairman, Langka Regulated Marketing Committee
13. Shri H A Vijaya, Deputy Director, Spices Board
14. Shri P.Banerjea, COO, APPL, Special Invitee

The following members were absent with intimation

1. Sri V.B Pyarelal, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary & APC.
2. Smt. Vandana Yadav, Director, Plantations, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt of India
3. Dr Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India
4. Shri Chandan Bora, Farmers representative.

Besides, the following persons also attended the meeting

1. Shri D Adhikary, SDAO, Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam
2. Shri T K Deka, Sr. ADO, Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Assam
3. Shri.Deepak Kumar Hazarika, GINFED
4. Shri Nithin Joe, Assistant Director, Spices Board, Guwahati
5. Shri SimantaSaikia, Senior Field Officer, Spices Board, Guwahati
6. Shri AtindraSarma, Computer Assistant, Spices Board, Guwahati
7. Ms Aneenamol P S, Publicity Assistant, Spices Board, Guwahati

At the outset, Shri H A Vijaya, Deputy Director, Spices Board welcomed all the members, which was followed by the self-introduction of the members present.

## **ITEM NO.1: BRIEF PRESENTATION ON FUNCTIONS AND ROLE OF SDA AND SPICES BOARD**

Shri Nithin Joe, Assistant Director, Spices Board gave a brief presentation on the activities of Spices Board in the region, highlighting the proposed Spices Park at Byrnihat, Meghalaya, Quality Evaluation Lab being established at Kolkata, establishment of spice processing societies and elaborating the Role of SDA.

## **ITEM NO.2: PRESENTATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF AMALGAMATED PLANTATIONS IN NORTH EAST**

Shri Prabir Banerjea, Chief Operating Officer, Agri- Business, APPL presented the activities of Amalgamated plantation in North East emphasizing their strategy, infrastructure facility, SWOT analysis of spices sector in North Eastern states and invited attention on areas where government intervention is needed.

Subsequently, the Chairperson asked the members to express their views/ suggestions.

## **ITEM NO.3: SUGGESTIONS & DISCUSSIONS**

Dr H Mai informed that the agro climatic conditions prevailing in the North Eastern region is very congenial for development of spices. Dr H Mai suggested that thrust should be given on transferring technical knowhow to the grass root level. Infrastructure development is the key issue which needs to be taken care of for promotion of spice sector in the region. Dr H Mai acknowledged the steps taken by the Board in Arunachal Pradesh for promotion of spices and added on that the Board is in the process of establishing infrastructure facilities like Centre of excellence, Auction centres etc.

Dr GN Hazarika suggested that GSDA shall make a road map for the development of spices in the region, involving various related agencies/ organizations and assign specific tasks. He also suggested the need of processing and value addition of spices. Dr Hazarika added that the vast expertise and manpower of the Department of Horticulture may be utilized for better management of the production aspects of spices.

Ms Leena Saikia emphasised the need for setting up a sterilization unit and common processing facility in the region, which can be accessed by the exporters. She also requested to look into the possibility of establishing of a Quality Evaluation Laboratory in the region.

Shri Deepak Paul stressed upon the need to educate the domestic customers on the quality of spices and suggested to evolve a policy to ensure that may safe and good quality spices one made available to the end user. He added that the spice processors in the region are at a disadvantage due to the tax structure, adversely affecting their capacity to compete with the established players from other parts of the country and solicited the possibilities of giving tax concessions to the spice processors in the region. Besides it was requested to devise holistic schemes for providing transport assistance, for the benefit of the spice sector.

Shri B R Khakhlary, Assistant DGFT Guwahati stated that the Office of the JDGFT Guwahati, is conducting awareness seminars on export procedures to the progressive farmers, prospective entrepreneurs etc. and expressed his desire to join hands with State Agriculture/ Horticulture departments and Spices Board.

Shri Pankaj Hazarika informed that there is a huge potential for the cultivation of Black Pepper in the Murhadol area in the Sonitpur district and requested to provide assistance for production and supply of good quality planting material of improved varieties of black pepper.

Shri Jiten Sarangfangsa informed the activities of GINFED in KarbiAnglong and put forward the concerns faced by them viz insurgency related problems, poor transportation facilities, need for better processing facilities, difficulty in availing loan from financial institutions and solicited prompt action to solve the tax related issues faced by the spice producers from KarbiAnglong.

Shri Timothy Das Hanse presented the status of spices production in Assam and informed that under MIDH Scheme 400 Ha has been allotted for Black Pepper and Sonitpur district shall also be covered under the scheme. He informed that production of coriander and garlic is catching up in Assam and added that transportation, processing, value addition and establishing market linkage are the major concerns for the development of Spices in the North Eastern Region.

Shri Amlan Baruah IAS expressed his concern that despite the fact that Assam is the highest producer of Ginger, the marketable surplus is not exported from the state, rather it is taken away to the other parts of the country for higher end processing, value addition and further export. Shri Amlan Baruah highlighted the need for devising an action plan for five years for the selected spices the region incorporating the aspects of research, production, processing, value addition and marketing. He also stressed on the need for integrating the activities of all the organizations working in this sector and also suggested for constituting sub committees for developing action plan for each spice. Secretary Agriculture also remarked that there is a pressing need to establish a value chain of spices right from farm to the fork and opined that the Spice Producer's Societies and Spices Parks shall facilitate the formation of a hub and spoke model in spice processing.

#### **ITEM NO.4: REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

Shri VK Pipersenia IAS, Chairperson, Guwahati Spice Development Agency expressed his happiness over the constitution of SDA which has brought together all the agencies working towards the development of spices sector. The Chairperson read out the various functions of the SDA and stressed on the need for providing good quality planting materials to the growers. Department of Horticulture and Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd, were asked to look into the possibilities of setting up a nursery, with an objective of supplying good quality planting materials to the farmers at a subsidized rate. Further, the Chairperson instructed the Department of Horticulture to prepare an approach paper on production management of spices and making available quality planting materials, with the plan of action for the next five years assigning annual physical and financial targets. Chairperson remarked that Assam

shall aim at becoming the largest producer of Black Pepper by 2020 and urged the Dept. of Horticulture to ensure that intercropping of pepper with tea is taken up in the major tea plantations.

The Chairperson remarked that weightage should be assigned to post-harvest management, processing alone and value addition of the existing production of spices rather than increasing the production alone and asked the members to come up with approach papers for post-harvest management and value addition of spices in the region like Ginger, Turmeric, Black Pepper, King Chilly, Large Cardamom and Tejpat. Spices Board was asked to monitor preparation of the approach papers and to support setting up post-harvest processing facilities like Ginger waxing units, curcumin extraction units, processing of King Chilly etc.

Devising a quality standard 'Spice Mark', similar to Agmark, Hall mark etc., for spices was enquired by the Chairperson for which the Board's officials informed about the existing Indian Spices Logo and the Chairperson called for generating awareness and promotion of the Indian Spices Logo. The Chairperson suggested for better coordination of the various research organizations that are working on spices and asked Director Research, Assam Agricultural University to identify the organizations and prepare a plan indicating status of present research activities and the prospective areas for research in spices.

Secretary, Agriculture was asked to clarify whether spices comes under Fruits and Vegetables and can it be exempted from the CESS under the Assam state Agricultural Produce Market Act, 1972 Act and further issue a circular in this regard. Mr. Deepak Paul was asked to submit a proposal in the next SDA meeting on what kind of tax exemption for spices is needed from the state government. Amalgamated Plantations Private Ltd was entrusted to prepare an approach paper on formation of producer companies in the spices sector with a business orientation, which can be supported by the state government.

Chairperson opined that the budget allocation to Guwahati SDA should be clear so as to facilitate effective planning and execution of various programs for the spice sector and asked Spices Board Regional Office to clarify the same, besides preparing an action plan for the activities of GSDA. The Board was also asked to come up with a portal/website for GSDA, to upload the relevant documents and reports, with a view to providing a cyber-platform for information dissemination. The discussions and decisions taken in the meeting is summarised as follows

#### **Tasks and Responsibility Assigned**

- Approach paper on production management of spices and making available quality planting materials - **Department of Horticulture, Assam**
- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of Ginger:- **Spices Board**
- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of Turmeric:- **Spices Board**
- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of Black Pepper:- **Spices Board & Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd**
- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of Large Cardamom:- **Spices Board**

- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of Tejpat:- **Spices Board**
- Approach paper on post-harvest management and value addition of King Chilly:- **Ms. Leena Saikia, Frontal Agritech Pvt Ltd**
- Approach paper on formation of Farmer Producer Companies:- **Amalgamated Plantations Pvt Ltd**
- Comprehensive proposal for tax exemption to Spice producers/ traders/ manufacturers:- **Shri Deepak Paul, Aroma India Pvt Ltd**
- Approach paper on status of present research activities and prospective area for research in Spices:- **Dr. GN Hazarika, Director (Research), Assam Agricultural University**
- Action plan for activities of GSDA & Budget:- **Spices Board**
- Web portal for GSDA:- **Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd & Spices Board**

#### **ITEM NO.5: CO OPTING MEMBERS**

The chairperson instructed to co-opt the following members as permanent invitees for the meetings of GSDA

1. Secretary (Agriculture)
2. Director (Agriculture)
3. Director (Extension), Assam Agricultural University
4. Mr P Banerjea from APPL
5. Representative from NABARD
6. Chairman of Assam GraminVikas Bank
7. Representative from APEDA
8. Representative from NERAMAC
9. Mr. S Hussain, Vista Agritech Pvt. Ltd, Guwahati

Thanking all the members for their participation Chairperson announced that the next meeting of GSDA shall be held at 3.30 PM on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary.

Sd/-

(V.K. Pipersenia, IAS)

Chief Secretary, Govt of Assam


&

Chairperson, Guwahati SDA

Copy to:

1. The Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi,
2. Mrs. Vandana Yadav, IAS, Director, Plantations, Department of Commerce, Office of the Commerce & Industry, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi
3. S.O to the Chief Secretary for information of the Chief Secretary, Assam.
4. Shri B.R. Khakhlary Asst. DGFT, Office of the Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, R.B. Baruah Road, Guwahati -781 024.
5. Dr. Hatobin Mai, Officer on Special duty to Chief Minister, Chief Minister Secretariat, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, Pin-791111.
6. Sri Timothy Das Hansc, Director of Horticulture, Directorate of Horticulture & PP, Khanapara, Guwahati, 781022.
7. Dr. Girindra Nath Hazarika, Director of Research, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam- 785013.
6. Sri Gautam Goswami, C/O Amalgamated Plantations P Ltd., Christanbasti, G.S Road, Guwahati-5.
7. Sri Jiten Sarfarongsa, GINFED, Diphu, Karbi Anglong.
8. Sri. Pankaj Hazarika, Murhadol Village, Bakola P O Jamuguri, Sonitpur, Assam- 784181
9. Sri Deepak Pal, Aeroma, P Ltd, Silchar.
10. Ms Leena Saikia, Managing Director, M/s Frontal Agritech Pvt. Ltd., Jail Road, Ambikagiri Nagar, Jorhat, Assam- 785001.
12. Mr. Vivek. M/s Balajee Trading Co., T.R. Phookan Road, Galla Patty, Fancy Bazaar, Guwahatai- 781001.
13. Sri Chandan Bora, Japarajan, Karbi Anglong.
14. Md. Misbahuddin, Chairman, Lanka Regulated Marketing Committee, Nilbagan, Dist. Nagaon.
15. Mr. H.A. Vijaya, Deputy Director, Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Govt. of India, Wireless, Dispur, Guwahati-06.
16. Sri P. Banerjea, Chief Operating Officer, Agri Business, Christanbasti, Gwahati-05.
17. P.S to the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi- 110011.
18. P.S to the Additional Chief Secretary & APC for information of the Additional Chief Secretary & APC.
19. P.S to the Secretary, Agriculture for information of the Secretary, Agriculture, Dispur.

By order etc.,

  
19/9/2015  
Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam,  
Department of Agriculture, Dispur, Guwahati

Members present in the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Guwahati Spice Development Agency held in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary, Assam, C-Block, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Dispur.

Sl. No	Name	Designation	Contact No.	Signature
1	Sri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS	Chief Secretary, Assam		
	A. Boruah	Secy, Assam		
2	T. D. Hense	Director, Horticulture & F&B, Assam	9435708250	
3	D. Adhikary	SPAO Directorate of Horticulture L.P. Assam	9954076970	
4	T. K. Deka	Sr. ADO (Hort.) MAREP	9435149106	
5	P. BANERJEE	COO, ARAKUNVED PLANTATIONS	09748421234	
6	G. Goswami	APPL, Guwahati	9435552556	
7	Jiten Sarangfongsa	GIN-FED Assam	9754307 289	
8	Deepak Kumar Hazarika	'DO'	9864016526	
9	Pankaj Hazarika	Former	985415462	
10	B.R. Khakhtary	ASST. DG FT	9435700329	
11	Misbah Uddin	Chairman Tanka Regulated Market Com.	9754634010	
12	Deepak Paul	Promote AROMA INDIA	9435070136	
13	Leena Saiti	Managing Director Frontal AgriTech Rtd.	9435096848	
14	G. N. HAZARIKA	Director of Research Assam Agri. Univ. Jorhat	94350-96186	
15	Dr Hatobin Mai	Member, Spices board of India	8447777816	
16	Vivek	Member, Spices Board of India	94355- 55382	
17	Nithin Goe	Asst. Director, Spices Board	7086018844	
18	Somanta Saitis	Sr. Field Officer Spice Board, Guwahati	9401032518	