

**MINUTES OF THE 74th MEETING OF THE SPICES BOARD HELD ON
9th FEBRUARY 2012 AT PUNE**

The 74th meeting of the Spices Board was held at 2.00 pm on 9th February 2012 at Hotel Westin, Pune. Dr A Jayathilak, IAS, Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

1.	Shri Roy K Paulose	Vice Chairman
2.	Dr M Anandaraj	Member
3.	Shri Pradeep Kumar (Representative of Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India)	
4.	Dr Viju Jacob	Member
5.	Shri Philip Kuruvilla	"
6.	Shri P J Kunjachan	"
7.	Shri K M Sulthan Ibrahim	"
8.	Smt Sushama Srikandath	"
9.	Shri Mathavan	"
10.	Shri Abul Kalam	"
11.	Shri George Valy	"
12.	Shri Jojo George	"
13.	Shri G Muraleedharan	"
14.	Adv. Joy Thomas	"

Dr K Prathapan, Director, State Horticulture Mission, Kerala attended as Observer in the absence of Secretary, Agriculture, Govt of Kerala

Leave of absence was granted to the following Members:

1.	Shri Anant Kumar Hegde, MP (Lok Sabha)	"
2.	Shri P T Thomas, MP (Lok Sabha)	"
3.	Shri S Thangavelu, MP (Rajya Sabha)	"
4.	Shri Sanjiv Chopra	"
5.	Smt Sutapa Majumdar	"
6.	Smt Amrit Raj	"
7.	Shri Ajay J Mariwala	"
8.	Dr N C Saha	"
9.	Dr G Venkateswara Rao	"
10.	Shri K C Pradhan	"

The following members were absent

1. Shri Rajendra P Ghogale
2. Shri Umesh Kumar
3. Shri K K Singh

The following officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri P M Suresh Kumar, Secretary & Director (M)
2. Shri Siddaramappa, Director (Dev)
3. Shri K C Babu, Director (Fin)
4. Dr M R Sudarshan, Director (Res)
5. Shri K R K Menon, Scientist C, Quality Evaluation Lab

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members to the Board meeting which is held coinciding with XI World Spice Congress, Pune. Thereafter the Agenda items were taken up for consideration.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 73rd Board meeting held on 15.11.2011

Confirmed.

Item No.2 : Action taken Report on the decisions of the 73rd meeting of the Board held on 15.11.2011

Secretary briefed about the action taken on the decisions at the previous Board meeting. The Board noted. The members had a detailed discussion on the decisions taken.

Regarding Proposal for formation of Spices Growers' Society (at SI No.5), it was decided to include all growers and limit the eligibility only upto 4 ha.

As regards Delegation to Saudi Arabia on Cardamom Market Promotion (at SI No.7), it was proposed to enlarge the scope of the delegation by including Market Research Study on cardamom. It was decided to identify professional agencies to conduct such Study and entrust separately in due course.

Regarding Constitution of Expert Committee to review / revise the Existing rules and regulations governing the domestic marketing of Cardamom including the e-auction system (at SI No.9), Shri Roy K Paulose, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Expert Committee requested to extend the time limit for submitting the Report of the panel for another period of two months and this was agreed to by the Board.

As regards Spice House Certification (at SI No.11), it was suggested that Spices Board shall approach FSSAI to involve Spices Board in licensing Spice Processing units of registered Exporters.

Regarding grant of Awards and Trophies to the Exporters of Spices for excellence, it is decided to circulate the recommendation of the sub-committee.

Item No.3 : Training programme on analysis of spices & spice products for the Technical Personnel from Spice Industries.

Noted.

Item No.4 : Regional Quality Evaluation Laboratory, Mumbai got NABL Accreditation

The Board noted the achievement of quality lab, Mumbai. It was suggested to prepare a specific time limit for getting the NABL accreditation for the quality labs at Chennai, Tuticorin, and Delhi

Smt.Sushama Srikandath congratulated the Quality Evaluation lab for the NABL accreditation it received and the efforts it took to check the Aflatoxin / Sudan levels in spices exported from India. The vigorous pre-shipment mandatory sampling has brought down the level of cases detected at the destination port drastically and this should be reported to the EC/EU to strengthen our version of strict control maintained over the spices exported from India.

It was decided to write a letter to EU officials informing the approval of NABL accreditation of the Quality Evaluation Lab at Mumbai.

Replying to a query on engaging a PR Agency abroad to improve the image of the Country, Chairman pointed out the financial difficulties faced in engaging a PR consultant from abroad and further explained that it is proposed to tap the services of foreign correspondents based in India.

Item No.5 : Status of consignment samples analysed by Quality Evaluation Laboratory of Spices Board

Members proposed to conduct trend analysis on consignment inspection of samples on Aflatoxin / Sudan by lab-wise, month-wise, area-wise / exporter-wise.

Item No.6 : Inclusion of Ginger & Turmeric (whole) to EU under mandatory pre-shipment sampling

The meeting decided to implement mandatory sampling for ginger and turmeric whole to EU from April 01, 2012 onwards.

Item No.7 : Supply of Silpaulin / HDPE Tarpaulin Sheets

It is proposed to review the suitability of Silpaulin Sheets for drying Chillies. It is also proposed to create common facilities in the major producing centres through Spice Growing Societies.

Item No.8 : Enhancement of the Educational Stipend to the children of Plantation Workers.

It is decided to enhance educational stipend as proposed. The Board recommended to enhance it further to a reasonable amount during the next Plan period.

Item No.9 : Status of Mobile Spice Clinics conducted by ICRI, Myladumpara

Noted.

Replying to a question on efforts taken by the ICRI on the 'Azhukkal' issue in Cardamom, Director (Res) explained that timely prophylactic spray of fungicide like Bordeaux mixture is useful to effectively control the "Azhukkal" disease.

Item No.10: Status of Establishment of Spices Parks

Noted.

The members urged to submit a detailed report on the structure and functioning of the Flavourit Spices Trading Limited (FSTL), the regulatory and functional control Spices Board have on FSTL, the extent of its association with Spice Park, Puttady and all relevant details connected with the formation of FSTL, its budgetary provision and staff deployment, and they requested to make available the Report in the next Board meeting.

Item No.11: Status of Establishment of QC Lab Cum Training Centres

Noted

Shri G Muraleedharan wanted to know the status of the establishment of Quality lab at Puttady. Director (Marketing) explained that the Quality lab would be established during the next financial year for testing Agmark parameters for cardamom which would enable the farmers to check the parameters of their produce. The analytical result thus obtained from the Lab could be produced to CWC to obtain CWC receipt on storing their produce, and the same could be submitted before the Bank to avail loans.

Item No.12: Review on Export of spices from India during April-November 2011 compared with April-November 2010

Noted. It was decided to circulate the latest export figures to the members.

Additional Item No.1 : Proposal for formation of Chilly Growers' Society under Charitable Societies' Registration Act under the auspicious of Spices Board.

The Board noted the proposal.

Additional Item No.2 : Task Force for Spices

It was decided to constitute Task Forces for the following items

i) Chilly, ii) Pepper, iii) Turmeric, iv) Cardamom, v) Seed Spices and vii) Nutmeg
vii) Spice Oils and Oleoresins.

The Board unanimously nominated the following Board members as the Chairman of the respective Task Forces;

i) Chilly	-	Shri Philip Kuruvilla
ii) Pepper	-	Smt Sushama Srikandath
iii) Turmeric	-	Shri P J Kunjachan
iv) Cardamom	-	Shri Jojo George
v) Seed Spices	-	Shri Rajendra P Ghogale
vii) Nutmeg	-	Shri George Valy
viii) Spice oils & Oleoresins	-	Dr Viju Jacob

The Board authorised the respective Chairman of the Task Force to constitute Committees consisting of stakeholders in the respective areas of specialty as members for studying and advising the Board.

Chairman explained the present status of PSFT of cardamom and informed that the Board is awaiting for a decision from the Ministry.

Replying to a request of Shri Abul Kalam for Board's support in managing monkey menace in Cardamom Plantations, Chairman informed that a Pilot study can be conducted by the Spices Board about the feasibility of providing fish net for the management of monkey menace.

Replying to the request of members to open new Offices and filling of vacant posts, Chairman explained the difficulties in opening new Offices due to the shortage of manpower. Filling of vacant posts will be considered at the time of the general transfers to be effected during April-May 2012

Dr K Prathapan, who has been nominated as Observer in the absence of representative of Govt. of Kerala, was requested by the Chairman to give his observations. He suggested the following:

- a) To change Small farmer definition for availing the support upto 4 ha, and he requested the Board to follow the same criteria for fixing the eligibility for the schemes.
- b) He suggested for a concerted effort on the part of all agencies involved in the production of the quality planting material for pepper.
- c) He also informed that Govt of Kerala is considering MSP for pepper and ginger.

Additional Item No.3 : Implementation of Energy saving proposals as per the energy audit report.

Noted

Chairman thanked all the Members and welcomed them to participate in the World Spice Congress.

The meeting came to a close at 3.30 p.m
