

A project by Spices Board in collaboration with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and the the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) entitled

Strengthening spice value chain in India and improving market access through capacity building and innovative interventions

I. Introduction

Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), under World Trade Organization (WTO), is an organization that supports developing countries in building capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations as a means to improve their human, animal and plant health status and ability to gain or maintain access to international markets.

The Spices Board had submitted a project proposal for STDF in 2014 for assistance in capacity building and knowledge sharing, to address SPS issues in spices. The final project was approved by the STDF during October 2018. The Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India has offered the support for the project vide letter No.2/1/2018- Plant-D, dated October 10, 2018.

FAO India is the implementation partner of the project and is the budget holder and will be responsible for the overall supervision of the project. Spices Board is the Local partner of the project and has to ensure the implementation of all local activities and their coordination. Presently, the first Letter of agreement (LoA) between FAO and Spices Board was signed on August 28, 2020. The duration of the project was for 3 years initially (15 October 2019 to 31 October 2022). Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the project period is extended by one more year, i.e. up to October 2023.

II. Objective

The overall goal of this pilot project is to build the capacity of stakeholders in the spices value chain and to expand exports of safe and high-quality spices from India to overseas markets. This will also contribute to improved food safety and consumer health in India and export markets. This is further expected to help to boost incomes of small-scale farmers, empower women and other marginalized (tribal) communities, and support efforts to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2) in the selected project areas in India. Through this initiative twelve hundred farmers will be reached over the project period.

The following spices /regions will be covered under the project:

- a. Cumin/Fennel in Mehsana district of Gujarat
- b. Cumin/Fennel in Jodhpur in Rajasthan
- c. Coriander in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh
- d. Black pepper in Paderu, Andhra Pradesh

III. Support from stake holders

For taking this pilot project forward, Spices Board had obtained letters of support from several major stakeholder organizations in the spice sector, viz. FSSAI , IISR Calicut, ICAR- NRCSS Ajmer, Agriculture

University Jodhpur, Collector Guna, ITDA Paderu, EIC, , RVSKVV Gwalior, IPSTA Kochi, ISFEA Mumbai, Dr YSR University of Horticulture, NABARD and the Horticulture Commissioner.

IV. Outputs under the project

- i. Output 1: Capacity (in the public and private sector and academia) to deliver trainings/ awareness programs on risk-based assessments and Good Practices along the identified spice value chains improved
- ii. Output 2: Capacity of farmers and other value chain actors to adopt GAP / GHP enhanced to improve yields, quality and safety of spices
- iii. Output 3: Marketing and links to buyers (exporters/ importers) strengthened
- iv. Output 4: Establishment and implementation of a National Contaminant and Residue control Programme (NCRCP) for identified spices

I. Expected outcomes

The project will address food safety issues in the production, post-harvest, processing and trade of Indian spices by adopting improved practices along the value chain and introduce a system of certification to ensure credibility of the products. At the end of the project, it is expected that the regions being considered under the project will have implemented good agriculture practices tailored to meet SPS issues with regard to the particular spices under consideration, thus generating access to new markets via linkages with major exporters. It is also expected to create a model which can be replicated in other spice growing areas. The increased acceptability of farmers' products in the global markets will result in better price realization for small and marginal farmers. Aside from contributing to doubling farmers' incomes, this project will reduce rural poverty and hunger.
