



## SPICES BOARD

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India)  
Sugandha Bhavan  
N.H.By-pass  
P.B.No. 2277  
Palarivattom P.O.  
Kochi - 682 025, India

## स्पाइसेस बोर्ड

(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
सुगन्ध भवन  
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कोच्ची - 682 025, भारत

No.MKT-AUC/SCHEDULE/01/2018

Dated :23.09.2022

### CIRCULAR

Spices Board will introduce the special e-auction for Cardamom (Small) for the lots cleared after testing the samples for two artificial colours and six pesticides based on the analytical report on a pilot basis. Accordingly, it is scheduled to conduct the first Special e-auction at Puttady on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2022. The schedule for conducting Special e-auction by the licensed e-auctioneers, who have given the willingness, is indicated below.

Name of the e-Auctioneer to conduct Special e-Auction	Date	Day	Venue for Special e-Auction	Time	Date of Pooling for special e-auction	Delivery of Samples to SRD, Puttady
M/s South Indian Green Cardamom Company Limited.	22.10.2022	Saturday	Puttady	9.30 am to 1.30 pm	07.10.2022 & 08.10.2022	09.10.2022
M/s MAS Enterprises Limited.				2.15 pm to 6.15 pm		
M/s The Cardamom Planters Marketing Co-operative Society Limited.	26.11.2022	Saturday	Bodinayakanur	9.30 am to 1.30 pm	11.11.2022 & 12.11.2022	13.11.2022
M/s Header Systems (India) Limited.				2.15 pm to 6.15 pm		

(\* Lunch Break 1.30 pm to 2.15 pm)

The Board reserves the right to modify the features / procedures related to the special e-auction after the pilot phase.

The Procedure for conducting Special e-auction including pooling, sampling, testing, payment of analytical charges etc is attached herewith as Annexure -1.

Auctioneers shall strictly follow the General Instructions and Guidelines attached as Annexure - 2 for conducting Special e-auction at Puttady & Bodinayakanur.

The Schedule is liable to change subject to the revised directions issued by the Central Govt./ State Govt. / the respective District Administration.

To

- 1.M/s South Indian Green Cardamom Company Limited.
- 2.M/s MAS Enterprises Limited.
- 3.M/s The Cardamom Planters Marketing Co-operative Society Limited.
- 4.M/s Header Systems (India) Limited.

Copy to:

DD Bodinayakanur / Puttady.

DD(EDP) - to host the circular in the Board's website.

**DIRECTOR (MKTG)**

**Procedure for Conducting Special e-Auction for  
Export quality Cardamom (small)**

Indian cardamom (small) has a good reputation, acceptance and reach in the international markets. Of late, many of the importing countries, including Saudi Arabia, single largest cardamom consuming country, have started imposing strict quality and food safety norms to be met by the exporters of cardamom including MRLs for certain chemical residues. With a view to promote export of Indian Cardamom (small) further and to have a separate marketing channel for tested IPM cardamom, the Board proposes to conduct special e-auctions for Cardamom (small) which is pooled by farmers after testing the samples for artificial colour, pesticides, and other quality parameters, as prescribed by the Board from time to time. To start with, it is proposed to test the samples drawn, for two artificial colours and six pesticides, as prescribed in Annexure –A and to issue an analytical report indicating whether a lot is 'Cleared for special e-Auction' or not.

Through the Special e-Auction, farmers can showcase and sell their tested cardamom. This initiative is expected to help the exporters in identifying quality cardamom in respect of pesticide residues and artificial green colour, so as to explore major markets like Saudi Arabia, and thereby help the industry in increasing the exports. It is expected to facilitate a better price realization by farmers and also to attract more farmers to adopt GAP/ IPM /Organic production practices in cardamom.

The special e-auction is an initiative of the Board also to promote production of IPM cardamom, compliant to pesticide MRLs and free of artificial green colour. This special e-auction arrangement is only aimed at identifying and facilitating sourcing of good quality cardamom, to explore export markets. It shall be noted that an analytical report issued under this arrangement with a 'cleared for Special auction' result, in itself is NOT a guarantee for direct export of a particular lot. Still an exporter of cardamom would require to obtain all clearances for his export consignment which includes a 'Certificate of Compliance (CoC)' in case of export to Saudi Arabia. As there is a demand for pesticide residue compliant cardamom, it is expected that the special e-auction will facilitate better price realization, driven by the market forces.

The following procedure has been stipulated for the successful conduct of Special e-auction.

### **Frequency of Special Auction**

1. Initially, the Board proposes to conduct special e-auction once in a month and preferably on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month.
2. The Board will enlist the existing auctioneers who are interested to conduct the special e-auction. The Special e-auction will be conducted through the existing and willing auctioneers.
3. Initially 2 auctioneers will be allowed to conduct the special e-auction on the given day every month.
4. A separate cycle of schedule will be maintained for conducting special e-auction independent of the existing normal e-auction schedule.
5. The list of auctioneers enlisted for conducting the special e-auction, along with the schedule for special auction in a particular month and the corresponding dates for pooling of cardamom, will be published in advance by the Board.
6. The Board reserves the right to modify any of the conditions prescribed for special e-auction as and when required, including the frequency of the special auctions in a month and the number of auctioneers permitted for conducting special auction in a day, no. of days allowed for pooling, etc. The Board also reserves the right to impose a ceiling on maximum quantity of cardamom that can be pooled by an auctioneer for a particular auction, if so required.

### **Farmers' Role and Responsibility**

7. Sellers (Farmers / Dealers), who are willing to participate in special e-auction, shall bring their cardamom, as per the current practice for normal e-auction, to the pooling centres of the enlisted auctioneers. The concerned auctioneer will be allowed to pool for a period of two (2) days, as per the current practice for normal e-auction, and as indicated in the auction schedule, which would occur about 15 days prior to his scheduled special auction.
8. Sellers (Farmers / Dealers) have to provide willingness to take an additional sample of 125 grams at free of cost by the enlisted auctioneer for testing purposes in addition to the sample (3000 gm) being taken by the auctioneers for conducting the normal e-auction as per the existing practice.
9. The sellers shall submit a declaration in the prescribed format to the auctioneer concerned at the time of pooling every lot. This format will contain their declaration of

willingness to participate in the special e-auction, willingness to additional sample of 125 grams for testing six pesticides and artificial green colour, and permission to the enlisted auctioneer concerned to deduct the testing charges applicable from the sale proceeds. The format of the declaration is given in Annexure-B.

10. Sellers may indicate the reserve price for their lot/ lots while pooling the cardamom for special auction.

#### **Procedure at the Pooling centres**

11. The seller has to bring the cardamom to the pooling centres of the concerned auctioneer, on the days allowed to the auctioneer for pooling. On receipt of the cardamom from a seller at the pooling centre, cardamom in all bags will be unpacked to make a homogenous lot by thorough blending.

12. From the lot, two samples of 3000 gm and 125 gm shall be drawn by the auctioneer. The 3000 gm sample will act as the normal sample for conducting the special e-auction as per the existing procedure and the 125 gm shall be sealed for testing pesticide residues and artificial colour at the Board's own / approved laboratory.

13. Then, the lot will be repacked into gunny bags of standard 50 kg with appropriate polythene cover to avoid cardamom absorbing moisture. Traceability will be ensured with proper marking on every packing of each lot.

14. A tagging system shall be maintained by the auctioneer for ensuring the traceability of the lot.

15. In order to establish the traceability of the lots selected for conducting the auction, a uniform coding system has to be implemented by the auctioneer at the pooling centre level. Each lot and the sample for test should have the identification mark. The format of the coding is SA/PC/FR/AUC/Lot/Date

Where SA: Special Auction, PC: Pooling centre No, FR: Farmer / Dealer Registration No, AUC: acronym (abbreviated Name) of Auctioneer & Auction No, Lot: Lot No, Date: Date of pooling

16. Sellers can pool cardamom in single or multiple lots depending on the lot size. However, the minimum lot size is fixed as 100 kgs.

17. The crop receipt shall be issued (as per the existing procedure for normal e-auction) for special e-auction also.

18. The seller needs to bear the cost of 125 gm cardamom collected for testing residues of pesticides (as prescribed in Annexure-A) & artificial colour.

19. Sealed Samples, which are collected for testing purpose, shall be handed over to Board's SRD at Puttady by the concerned Auctioneer within the next day of the allowed pooling period, with proper tagging.

20. The entire lot and the 3000 gm sample shall be kept by the concerned auctioneers. Since the pooled cardamom has to be kept for more than 15 days, the auctioneer has to take required precautions to store the cardamom pooled for special e-auction and the sample bag containing 3000 kg. It is advised to keep both the lot and the sample in gunny bag with plastic cover to prevent possible absorption of moisture.

#### **Procedure for Testing of Cardamom samples for Special auction**

21. The Auctioneer shall submit the 125 gm sealed sample of the cardamom with the tag to the Board's SRD at Puttady Spices Park within the next day of the allowed pooling period. (If P is taken to indicate the last date of Pooling, this step shall be completed on P+1day)

22. On receipt of the 125 gm sample from the auctioneers, the concerned SRD at Puttady Spices Park shall accept the Cardamom Samples as 'Customer Sample' and enter the details of the samples in the SRD software (QUADMAS). This step shall be completed within P+2 day.

23. The SRD shall assign the sample to one of the Board's own/ approved lab for testing, print and affix the sample code generated through QUADMAS and transfer the sample to the assigned lab, by the next day. This step shall be completed within P+3 day.

24. The Lab is expected to receive the sample within the next 2 days. This step shall be completed within P+5 day.

25. Upon receipt, the labs shall test the samples, for the pesticides and artificial colours as specified in Annexure-A. The Lab shall enter and approve the result in QUADMAS, within 4 days from the date of receipt of the sample at the Laboratory. (This step shall be completed within P+9 days)

26. One of the authorised signatories (for this purpose) from QEL/ICRI shall review and authorize the result uploaded by the Lab on QUADMAS, or refer it back for correction, if any. Upon authorization, the software will determine whether the sample is 'Cleared for the Special Auction' or not. This step shall be completed within P+10 days.

27. The Officer in charge/ SRD at Spices Board, Puttady, shall generate and issue the final report and send it the auctioneer concerned, along with invoice. This step shall be completed within P+11 day.

28. Upon receipt of the test result, the auctioneer concerned shall arrange for special auction by including only those lots which received the result 'Cleared for the Special Auction', and upload necessary details on the e-auction platform.

29. The Board will provide assistance in the form a discount percentage, as prescribed by the Board (to start with, 1/3 of the testing charges) to the farmers sample only, which have been cleared for placing in the special e-auction. This discount is not applicable to the dealers lots cleared for the special auction. The testing charges are provided in Annexure-C.

30. After the special e-auction, the auctioneer concerned shall deduct the testing charges, as indicated in the invoice (after the above discount meant for farmers lots), and remit it to the Board within 10 days from the date of special e-auction. The auctioneer shall intimate the Board's Regional Office, Bodi about the remittance made. The Regional Office, Bodinayakanur will monitor such remittance and confirm the same to the Marketing Department under intimation to the SRD at Kochi.

31. In case of lots which received 'Not Cleared for the Special Auction' result, the auctioneer concerned shall not include them in special e-auction but he shall intimate the concerned seller along with a copy of the invoice and test report. In such cases, the seller will have to take back the lot after remitting the invoice amount for test charges and the charges applicable for pooling / storing the lot to the auctioneer. The auctioneer will remit the testing charges to the Board and intimate the Regional Office, Bodi about the remittance made. The Regional Office, Bodinayakanur will monitor such remittance and confirm the same to the Marketing Department under intimation to the SRD at Kochi.

32. The Board proposes to conduct the special auction on a pilot basis, for one or two cycles and to decide on its continuation after a review. The Board reserves the right to stop, or continue the special auctions with modifications as deemed fit.

### **Role of Auctioneers**

33. The auctioneer should maintain the same infrastructure facilities as required for normal e-auction. He shall keep the Cardamom pooled for special e-auction and the samples with distinct identity, for a period of around 15 days, before the special auction.

34. The pooling centres of the auctioneer should have packing facilities of the cardamom pooled for special auction. Since the material has to be kept more than 15 days for completing the testing, the entire lot has to be kept in gunny bags of standard size weighing 50 kgs of cardamom and the samples with plastic covering to avoid absorbing of moisture.

35. It is the responsibility of the concerned auctioneer to deduct the applicable testing charges from the sale proceeds of each lot and the same has to be remitted to the Board within 10 days from the date of auction.

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**Annexure-A**

**Testing of Pesticides and Artificial Colour**

Cardamom samples for special auction shall be tested for the following six pesticides and presence of artificial green colour

<b>SI No</b>	<b>Name of the Pesticide</b>	<b>MRL (mg/gm)</b>
1	Acetamiprid	0.10
2	Cyhalothrin (includes lambda cyhalothrin)	2.00
3	Cypermethrin (including alpha- and zeta- cypermethrin)	3.00
4	Profenofos	3.00
5	Triazophos	4.00
6	Dithiocarbamates	0.10

**Artificial Colour**

<b>SI No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Brilliant Blue	Not to be detected
2	Tartrazine	Not to be detected

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**DECLARATION**

( To be given by the Seller to the Auctioneer conducting Special e-auction)

I here by declare that

- a) I am willing to participate in the special e-auction.
- b) I express my willingness to provide additional sample of 125 grams for testing six pesticides and two artificial colour.
- c) If sample of my lot is not cleared for placing in special e-auction, I shall pay the testing charges as per the Invoice and the charges applicable for pooling / storing the lot to the auctioneer and also to take back my lot.
- d) If the sample of my lot is cleared for placing in special e-auction, I grant permission to the auctioneer concerned to deduct the testing charges applicable from the sale proceeds as per the Invoice and remit to the the Board.

Signature

Place :

Name :

Date :

Address

**Sample Testing Charges**

Testing charges for 6 pesticides and 2 artificial colours

Farmers Samples not cleared for  
special e-auction (including GST) : Rs.4130/-

Farmers samples cleared for  
special e-auction (with 1/3 discount)  
(including GST) : Rs.2753/-

Dealers sample (including GST) : Rs.4130/-

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS :**

1. The Special e-auctions will be conducted at two auction per day. First auction should be commenced from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and after the lunch break (1.30 pm to 2.15 pm), the second auction should be taken place from 2.15 pm to 6.15 pm.
2. In order to ensure the safe social distancing norms, the seating will be arranged in the alternate terminals at Puttady E-auction centres and alternate / opposite sides of the terminals at Bodinayakanur E-auction centres.
3. The pooling of cardamom brought by the farmers should be given priority in the pooling centres established by the Auctioneers.

**GUIDELINES :**

The following guidelines are issued for strict adherence by the Stakeholders in the Pooling and Auction Centres.

1. The participants are directed to adhere to strict covid protocol norms.
2. The auctioneers and participants of e-auction shall follow the guidelines on COVID-19 issued by Central as well as State Governments including the guidelines issued by the District Administration and District Medical Officer from time to time.
3. The auctioneers shall provide adequate hand wash facilities, mask, sanitizers in the pooling centre / storage areas / e-auction centres for the use by farmers bidders, workers.
4. The auctioneer shall display a notice related to washing protocol to be adopted in the pooling centre / storage areas / e-auction centres.
5. The weight of the sacks / gunny bags of cardamom shall be such that is worker can easily handle / carry it independently inside the godown without support of other worker in order to avoid control with co-workers.
6. Adequate personal safety measures shall be taken for loading / unloading and transporting of cardamom and pooling centres / auction centres.
7. The auctioneers shall ensure that crowding is avoided in the cardamom pooling / collection centres. Appropriate measures such as token system can be adopted to avoid crowding.
8. The auctioneer shall engage minimum staff members in the pooling centre / storage area / auction centre.
9. Cleaning of the pooling / auction centre shall be undertaken on a daily basis to ensure the hygiene and sanitation.
10. Workers, farmers, traders, employees of auctioneers shall practice social distancing in the pooling centres / auction centres at any point of time.
11. The auctioneers shall display the phone numbers of health authorities / ambulance / fire etc. in the pooling / auction centre for use during emergency.