

**MINUTES OF THE 80TH MEETING OF SPICES BOARD HELD
ON 30TH JUNE 2015 AT
SHER -I-KASHMIR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, [SKICC] SRINAGAR**

The 80TH Meeting of the Spices Board was held at 3.00pm on 30TH June 2015 at Sher -i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar [known as SKICC].

Dr. A. Jayathilak IAS., Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

1. Mr. Bhaskar Shah, Vice Chairman
2. Shri B. S. Yeddyurappa, Hon'ble MP
3. Shri. Pratap Simha, Hon'ble MP
4. Ms. Vandana Yadav IAS
5. Dr. Hatobin Mai
6. Dr. M. Anandaraj, Director, IISR
7. Adv. E.M. Augusthy,
8. Mr. Anjo Jose
9. Shri. B.M. Muniraju,
10. M.M. Madhava Naidu, Representing Director [CFTRI]
11. Shri. Ravela Gopala Krishna
12. Mr. T.P. Bhutia, Additional Director of Horticulture, Gangtok, Sikkim, Representing The Secretary, (Horticulture), Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1. Shri S. Thangavelu, Hon'ble MP, [Rajya Sabha]
2. Dr. Viju Jacob,
3. Sri. Jojo George
4. Shri. K. Zia-ud-Din Ahamd,
5. Shri. Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation,
6. Mr. Ajith Thomas,
7. Mrs. Vijayalaxmi
8. Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal
9. The Principal Secretary (Horticulture), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
10. Mr. Luther M.C, Director, In charge of Finance Division, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, New Delhi.
11. Shri N. C. Saha, Director, IIP
12. Mrs. Anita Karnavar

The following members were absent :

1. Director in-charge of Export Promotion (Agriculture division), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi
2. Mr. D.V. R Rajiv Mohan, M/s. ITC Limited, Kolkata
3. Director (IE), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi
4. Secretary (Horticulture), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
5. Mr. Kumarlal M Thailiani, Partner, M/s. Asian food Industries, Gujarat.

The following Officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri. S. Kannan, Director (Mktg) & Secretary-in-charge
2. CA K.C. Babu, Director (Finance)
3. Shri S.Siddaramappa, Director (Dev)
4. Dr. Y.S. Rao, Director (Res)

At the outset, Chairman, Spices Board welcomed and thanked all the members who attended the Board Meeting from all over India.

ITEM NO: 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 79TH MEETING OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT SPICES BOARD, KOCHI ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2015

Since no comments were received from the members on the 79th Meeting, the Board confirmed the Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2: ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS OF THE 79TH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19TH FEBRUARY 2015.

The Board noted the action taken report on the decision of the 79th Board meeting held on 19th February 2015 and approved to revise the Award honourarium for the cardamom farmers from next year onwards and change in the venue to Goa for CCSCII.

ITEM NO: 3: PROPOSAL FROM GOVT OF ANDHRA PRADESH TO CONDUCT TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR MASTER TRAINEES AND CHILLI FARMERS IN GUNTUR DISTRICT UNDER RKVY PROJECT

The Board noted the proposal received from Govt. of AP and ratified the action taken by Chairman, Spices Board for transferring an amount of Rs.36.00 lakhs out of Rs.3.65crores received by the Board for implementing the programme from the RKVY fund to Commissioner of Horticulture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

ITEM NO.4: LARGE CARDAMOM REPLANTING/ NEW PLANTING SCHEME - SUBSIDY AMOUNT REVISION DURING XII PLAN

The Board noted the proposal approved by the Government for enhancing the subsidy for Large Cardamom Replanting/New planting in NE Region and Darjeeling District of West Bengal during XII plan period @ Rs.28000/- per ha payable in two annual / equal instalments under Large Cardamom Replanting/ New Planting.

As the Board has already released the 1st installment at the old rate of Rs.5900/- per ha during 2014-15, the Board approved to release the balance of 1st installment of Rs.8,100/-per ha along with the 2nd installment of Rs.14,000/- per ha during 2015-16.

ITEM NO.5: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME (QITP) SCHEDULE FOR 2015-16.

The Board approved the total financial outlay of Rs.40.00 lakhs under HRD for conducting Quality Improvement Training Programmes in 729 centres in the spice

growing States. However, it was advised that one day programme is to be considered instead of half day Programmes proposed, wherever required / possible.

ITEM NO.6: SPICES BOARD AS NLA FOR POST HARVEST PROGRAMMES FOR SPICES UNDER MIDH PROJECT OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOVT OF INDIA DURING 2015-16 – FOR INFORMATION

The Board noted the revised Annual Action Plan for implementation of post harvest programmes for spices under MIDH during 2015-16 with a total financial outlay of Rs.4.00 crores as per the directions from the Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

The Board also noted the success of implementing programmes under MIDH, Ministry of Agriculture during 2014-15 at a total assistance of Rs.4.50 crores.

ITEM NO.7: CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT OF FOCUS CROPS IN NE REGION AT GUWAHATI

The Board noted the Capacity building programme for Post Harvest Management of focus crops in the NE region conducted at Guwahati through IIPM at a total cost of Rs.11.25lakhs.

ITEM NO.8: STUDY TOUR CUM BHARAT DARSHAN FOR THE NEWLY RECRUITED EMPLOYEES OF THE BOARD

As a part of strengthening the Board's activities all over India, the proposal of imparting induction training to the newly recruited officials of the Board under "Study Tour Cum Bharath Darshan Programme" was noted by the Board.

ITEM NO.9: PROPOSAL FOR CONDUCTING QUALITY AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAMMES ON MINT IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Board noted the proposal of conducting quality awareness training programmes on Mint in Uttar Pradesh.

ITEM NO.10: PILOT PROGRAMME FOR POST HARVEST IMPROVEMENT, MARKET & EXPORT PROMOTION OF SAFFRON IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Board approved the proposal of additional components / activities with a financial outlay of Rs.44.00 lakhs for 2015-16 for the pilot programme for post harvest improvement, market & Export promotion of Saffron in Jammu & Kashmir.

ITEM NO.11: SECOND SESSION OF CCSCH:

The Board noted the conduct of second session of the CCSCH scheduled to be held during 14 to 18 September 2015 in Goa.

ITEM NO.12: REVIEW ON EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF SPICES FROM INDIA DURING 2014-15 AS COMPARED TO 2013-14

The Board noted a total export of 8,93,920 tons of spices and spice products valued Rs.14899.68 crore (US\$2432.85 Million) during 2014-15 as against 8,17,250 tons valued Rs.13735.39 crore (US\$ 2267.67 Million) in 2013-14 registering an increase of 9.38% in volume and 8.47% in rupee terms and 7.28% in dollar terms of value.

ITEM NO.13: AWARD FOR EXPORT EXCELLENCE IN SPICES

The status is noted.

ITEM NO.14: ESTABLISHMENT OF SPICES PARKS

The Board Noted the Status of Spices Parks already established and being established. Shri.Pratap Simha, Hon'ble MP has requested to establish a spice park at Coorg as Coorg is a hub for production of pepper, chilli, ginger and cardamom. Chairman explained the need for establishing spice park at Haveri for the development of Bydagi Chilli and further stated about the basic requirement for establishing of Spice Park including alienation of land free of cost. Mr. Simha agreed to identify suitable land. The Board decided to carry out a feasibility study in parallel.

ITEM NO.15: ESTABLISHMENT OF QC LABS

The status is noted.

ITEM NO.16: STATUS ON E-AUCTION CENTRE AT PUTTADY AND BODINAYAKANUR

The Board noted the status of e-auction centres at Puttady and Bodinayakanur. Director (Mktg) explained that the new system has encouraged new traders to take part in the auction system and also created healthy competition among the auctioneers and traders. However, some of the auctioneers expressed their difficulties in disposing the entire lots expected to be registered for the particular auction during the peak harvest period due to paucity of time and suggested to combine auctioneers with large number of lots with smaller number of lots for conducting auction preferably at Bodinayakanur. Director (Mktg) explained that the new system was introduced only five months ago. It was also suggested to have at least 100 Terminals at the Auction Centre being established in Bodinayakanur.

ITEM NO.17: CONSTITUTION OF SAFFRON PRODUCTION AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SPEDA)

The Board noted the constitution of SPEDA. The Chairman explained that the proposal for implementing programmes on Saffron has already been submitted to Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India for funding. The first meeting of the SPEDA is expected to be convened soon.

ITEM NO.18: ESTABLISHMENT OF 10 SPICE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES (SDA)

The Board noted the establishment of Spice Development Agency (SDA) in ten regions for development of spices.

ITEM NO.19 ESTABLISHMENT OF SIGNATURE STALLS IN DELHI

The Board accorded approval on the action taken in establishing signature stalls by taking suitable space / shops at M/s.STC at Janpath and Dilli Haat, Janakpuri, Delhi for Indian Spices in line with the Signature Stall developed by the Board at Lulu Mall, Kochi and noted the request of the Commerce Ministry to open more such signature stalls.

ITEM NO.20: PROMOTION OF ETHNIC RECIPES OF SPICE MIX

The Board approved a budget of Rs.25.00 lakhs for promotion of ethnic recipes of spice mixes.

ITEM No. 21: CONDUCT OF 43RD ANNUAL SESSIONS AND MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL PEPPER COMMUNITY (IPC)

The Board noted the hosting of the 43rd session of the IPC at Mysore, Karnataka between 22nd and 25th November 2015.

ITEM No. 22: WORLD SPICE CONGRESS: 2016

The Board noted the conduct of the next World Spice Congress 2016, which is the 13th in the series during 27 - 29th February, 2016 at Ahmedabad.

ITEM 23: AMENDMENT IN SPICES BOARD (RECRUITMENT) REGULATION 2010/SHIFTING OF POSTS

The Board ratified the changes made in the recruitment rules by incorporating additional qualification/providing relaxation in experience, in certain posts while making appointments or granting promotions to serving employees in the exigencies of service as per the Annexure IV.

The action initiated by the Chairman as per Annexure III to shift the posts across the divisions for the growth of the organization has been ratified by the Board.

The Board approved the proposal of Chairman to post a regular officer with suitable qualification to manage IT security and to avoid any kind of hacking, data theft etc., in the cadre of Assistant Director in EDP Department through Direct Recruitment by converting the post of Assistant Director (Mktg) to Assistant Director (Cyber Security & Marketing) within the sanctioned staff strength.

ITEM 24: STATUS OF CONSIGNMENT SAMPLES ANALYZED BY QUALITY EVALUATION LABORATORY, SPICES BOARD

The Board noted the status.

ITEM 25:EARMARK FUND FOR SPICES BOARD EMPLOYEES' PENSION FUND

The Board ratified the action taken with regard to the provision created on account of Employees' pensionary benefits by earmarking Rs.10.00 crore for the year 2014-15 towards Spices Board Employees Pension Fund.

ITEM 26: SMALL CARDAMOM VARIETY (ICRI 8) DEVELOPED AT ICRI, SAKALESHPUR HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR RELEASE FOR KARNATAKA REGION (2014-15)

The members requested to develop a variety for Kerala Region also. It was then informed by Director (Res) that for Kerala we have already developed 5 varieties and the new variety developed is based on the agro climatic region suitable for Karnataka region only. The Board noted.

ITEM 27: BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR SPICES BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2015-16.

The Board noted the information.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

ITEM 28: REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ELECTRICITY CHARGES FOR IRRIGATION IN CARDAMOM

The Board suggested to resolve the issue by taking up the matter with the Govt. of Kerala.

ITEM 29: ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE SPICES BOARD FOR THE YEAR 2014-15

The Director (Finance) presented the Annual Accounts of the Spices Board for the year 2014-15 comprising of Receipts & Payments Account, Income & Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2015. The Board considered the Annual Accounts of Spices Board for the year 2014-15 and same was approved for furnishing to the Principal Director Commercial Audit, Chennai for audit and certification. The Board also authorized Chairman to incorporate necessary corrections/modifications, if any, in the Annual Accounts referred to above and passed the following resolution.

Resolution

"Resolved that the Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2015, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2015 of the Spices Board along with the Schedules and Notes appended thereto be and are hereby approved".

"Also resolved to authorize the Chairman to incorporate necessary corrections/modifications, if any, in the above accounts as per audit instructions".

ITEM NO 30 : IT SECURITY

The Board noted the steps taken by the Chairman to avoid further electronic data loss and the need to strengthen IT security. Accordingly, the Board approved the creation of a data centre and disaster recovery centre and demilitarized zones (DMZ) by dual firewalls.

ITEM NO 31 : RELAXATION OF PROCEDURES TO ENSURE CONTINUED FLEXIBILITY OF OPERATIONS

The Board noted the operational and administrative steps taken by Spices Board regarding, Air travel by officials posted in the North Eastern Region, Service in North

Eastern Region, Medical reimbursements, Rent free accommodation, Relaxation on traveling allowance norms, Booking of Air/ Rail tickets, Travel by non-Air India flights etc, assuming a reasonable level of autonomy and flexibility.

Further, the Board opined that these administrative and resource management steps taken by Spices Board, considering the bigger picture, has enabled it to cater effectively to the varied needs of different stake holders of the Indian spice industry, despite its limited manpower and vast geographical expanse.

Taking into account the unique nature of Spices Board in terms of its mandate with 52 different spices, administration, resources, geographic spread, operations and execution of schemes and the reorganization of the Board all over India to make its presence felt in each and every State and Union Territory of India, the Board accorded approval to the organization for continuing the prevailing mode of functioning with some amount of autonomy and flexibility, in future also and to take decisions on matters that require immediate action and cannot wait disposal in public interest.

ITEM NO:32 CHILLI / TURMERIC DEVELOPMENT AND EXPORT PROMOTION IN ANDHRA PRADESH :

Mr. Ravela Gopala Krishna informed that the road connectivity to the Highway as discussed in the inaugural function of Spices Park Guntur has to be taken up. It was informed by the Director (Mktg) that the Board has already initiated action for the road connectivity and allotment of plots in the Park.

With regard to extending assistance for supply of Mechanical Chilli Driver, Turmeric Boiler, Polisher and High Speed Sprayers for the use of farmers to cater to the labour problem, the Director (Dev) explained that the programmes are being considered by the newly constituted Guntur Spice Development Agency.

The timely supply of IPM inputs for Chilli will be ensured. The Member also requested to extend the IPM Programme for curry leaf also. The Director (Dev) explained that the programme is being implemented for only Pepper and chilli under RKVY/MIDH projects. Now, Curry leaf will also be included under RKVY/ MIDH.

Other Discussions:

The farmers may be advised to test their cardamom to ensure pesticide residue before putting it to auction. It was suggested by the members to arrange awareness programmes among farmers about MRL. Chairman informed that the Board has already initiated this programme in Guntur for testing chilli samples at subsidized rates so that the farmers can bargain for a better price for their produce in the market claiming that their produces are pesticide and aflotoxin free as per the Spices Board test report.

Chairman also informed that for benefit of health of public, the Board has given instructions to FSSAI to collect and send the samples of Spices from anywhere in India to Spices Board. The samples are being received from FSSAI for testing even though it is not the mandatory function of the Board to test non-export samples.

Mr. Anjo Jose requested to arrange Awareness programme on the approved agricultural practices of all spices. Chairman informed we can implement this programme only for cardamom as other spices are coming under the purview of concerned State Governments.

In reply to the suggestions made by Mr. Hatobin Mai, Chairman informed that a special project on all the items flagged by FSSAI across spices and across states on IC activities will be prepared and submitted.

Dr. Hatobin Mai appreciated the new Pan Indian activities of the Board, especially the location of the Board meetings at places like Itanagar and Srinagar.

Mr. Hatobin Mai informed that there is good agro climatic condition in Upper Siang Districts of Arunachal Pradesh for cultivation of large cardamom and requested to open an office. Chairman requested him to suggest a place where there is least scope for cultivation of large cardamom among the nine offices which are newly set up in Arunachal Pradesh so that one of the offices can be shifted.

Chairman informed that the Board has already prepared projects on large cardamom and submitted to Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh for consideration under RKVY/MIDH Board. The copies will be handed over by the local office at Arunachal Pradesh for follow up.

As per the mandate of Spices Board, the subsidy is allowed only for Cardamom. Hence, subsidy for King Chilli can not be considered. However, we may look the feasibility of providing subsidy under RKVY if the State Government is willing.

Research projects similar to the one introduced in Horti model in Black pepper is possible in large cardamom. Chairman suggested for preparing a Pilot project under RKVY project. Chairman also clarified that the subsidy will be distributed based on the applications received irrespective of the target.

Chairman further stated that the Board is establishing nursery in Arunachal Pradesh for production of large cardamom planting materials and directed the Director (Res) to undertake a pilot demonstration plan and find out the productivity of the wild species available in Arunachal Pradesh.

Adv. Augusthy suggested the Conduct of a national level seminar at Thekkady by the end of this year by involving all the stakeholders. In response to this Chairman suggested a national level seminar in the southern region preferably in Idukki.

While thanking the members for their active participation in the meeting Chairman proposed to have the Board Meeting along with the following events.

1. Second session of CCSCH in September 2015 at Goa
2. 43rd Session and meetings of the IPC in Mysore during November
3. 13th World Spice Congress 2016 in Ahmedabad during February 2016.
