

MINUTES OF THE 78th MEETING OF THE SPICES BOARD HELD
ON 25th OCTOBER, 2014 AT ITANAGAR

The 78th Meeting of the Spices Board was held at 3.00 PM on 25th October, 2014 at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Dr.A.Jayathilak, IAS, Chairman, Spices Board presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

- 1) Shri Ravela Gopalakrishna
- 2) Shri B M Muniraju
- 3) Shri Jojo George
- 4) Shri Anjo Jose
- 5) Shri E K Vasu
- 6) Shri E M Augusthy
- 7) Shri K Zia-ud-din-Ahamed
- 8) Dr.Hatobin Mai
- 9) Shri Pradeep Kumar, Representative of MoC
- 10) Shri Karma Sherpa (Representative of Sikkim Govt)
- 11) Dr Mathew Samuel, Kalarickal
- 12) Dr M Madhava Naidu (Nominee of Director, CFTRI)

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

1. Shri S Thangavelu. M.P
2. Director, Finance Division, MoC
3. Director, Planning Commission
4. Director IISR
5. Director IPM
6. Joint Secretary & Mission Director (NHM) Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, New Delhi
7. Representative of major producing State-Andhra Pradesh
8. Representative of major producing State -Uttar Pradesh
9. Mrs Anita Karnavar
10. Shri Viju Jacob
11. Shri Ajith Thomas
12. Shri Mansingh Parsoda
13. Shri Kumarlal Thailaiani
14. Mrs Vijayalakshmi Rajesh
15. Shri Bhaskar Shah
16. Dr.V R Rajiv Mohan

The following Officers of the Board were present:

1. Shri P.M.Sureshkumar, Secretary
2. Dr J Thomas, Director (Res)
3. Shri S.Siddaramappa, Director (Dev)
4. Shri K.C.Babu, Director

At the outset, Chairman, Spices Board welcomed all the members to the Board Meeting at Itanagar.

Item No:1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 77th Meeting of the Spices Board held on 23rd June, 2014

Confirmed.

Item No:2: Action taken report on the decisions of the 77th Meeting of the Spices Board held on 23rd June 2014

Secretary briefed the action taken on the decisions of the previous Board meeting and the Board noted the same.

Item No:3: Opening of new Offices and strengthening of existing Board's offices including NE Region:

Noted

Item No:4: Special Package for development of Saffron in Jammu and Kashmir under RKVY – Proposal submitted to Govt of India.

Chairman informed about the proposal for constituting Saffron Production and Export Development Agency (SPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The agency is proposed to undertake production, development, domestic marketing and export promotion of Saffron. It is a pilot project. Chairman stated that the MoC has approved the proposal and forwarded to Ministry of Agriculture for their clearance. Similar such spice specific Agencies will be considered in other States based on the potential of the spices.

Item No:5: Status note on the Integrated Spices Development Project submitted to States and UTs for seeking financial assistance under MIDH / RKVY (State-wise):

The Board noted that out of the 67 integrated projects submitted to the 29 State Govts and 6 UTs, 6 States have considered the proposal in the SLEC meeting. The project submitted to Govt of Kerala was rejected. The Board members requested for copy of the proposal sent to Govt of Kerala and the reply received so that they could follow up the matter with the Govt of Kerala. The members also assured their support in taking up the proposal with other State Govts for further follow-up.

Item No:6: Proposal to renew the lease of Lands leased out for cardamom cultivation to sustain the Forest eco-system and the Cardamom Industry:

Discussed under Item No.15(a).

Item No:7: Approval of Board's Post Harvest programmes for spices at a total financial outlay of Rs.500 lakhs during 2014-15 under MIDH by Union Ministry of Agriculture:

Noted. It was clarified that the farmers are allowed to install driers of higher capacity limiting the subsidy to the sanctioned amount.

Item No:8: Land at Thandikudi village for establishing Regional Research Station (ICRI) at lower Pulney Hills of Tamil Nadu Region:

Noted.

Item No:9: Status of establishment of Spices Parks:

Noted.

Item No:10: Status of establishment of QC lab cum Training Centres:

Noted.

Item No:11: Export of spices for the financial year 2014-15:

Noted. The members observed that the aflatoxin level in the chilli available in the local market is very high. The members stressed the need for arranging awareness programme to avoid aflatoxin in Chilli.

Item No:12: Capacity Building for the implementation of Food Safety Management – Establishing Collaborative Training Centre (CTC):

Noted.

Item No:13: Approval of Budget for the project on e-chilly bazaar e-commerce platform for better market reach and price realisation for chilli farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana:

Ratified.

Item No:14 (i) : Status of consignment samples analysed by Quality Evaluation Laboratory of Spices Board:

Noted. It was suggested that Spices Board should take initiative to popularise the judicious use of pesticides as excess use of pesticides had resulted in loss of certain export markets. Hence the members suggested the Board to launch awareness programmes to farmers for judicious use of pesticides.

(ii) Training programmes 2014 :

Noted.

Item No:15: Agenda item proposed by Dr Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, Board Member:

Item No.15(a) : Implication of Kasthuri Rangan Report on Cardamom Plantation

Dr Mathew Samuel Kalarickal made a PowerPoint Presentation on the Implications of implementing of Kasthuri Rangan Report. Chairman informed that the Board has already communicated the concern of Cardamom industry to the Central Govt and informed that the

Board's stand will be reiterated.

Item No.15(b) : Notification inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for new auction licences.

The report of the expert committee was placed in the Board. Members felt that the committee consists of interested parties from traders side. Therefore, the traders were deleted from the Committee. During re-constitution, the members disclosed that they are not an interested party in the auction licences to avoid any conflict of interest. Hence it was decided to re-constitute the committee with the following members

1. Shri,Ajith Thomas, Board Member
2. Shri.Augusthy, Board Member
3. Shri.Vasu, Board Member
4. Dr Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, Board Member
5. Dr.Madhava Naidu, Scientists, CFTRI
6. Adv. P.J.Chacko, Cardamom Planter, Puthuprambil House, 31st,Mundakayam
7. Fr.Aloysius OSB, Cardamom Planter, St. Thomas Benedictine Monastery Novitate,Vazhaveedu, Pampadumpara
8. M.Guruvappa Gowda, Mudigere, Billur P.o., Mudigere Taluk,Chichamagalur Dist

Chairman suggested that the re-constituted committee may have to consider the suggestions of the previous expert committee. Any stake holder can present their case before the new committee.

The Chairman explained that the present auction licences were on extension from August till 30th November only and that further extension would not be granted. New licences would be granted to all the applicants who responded to the EOI who fulfil the eligibility criteria. In case of delay, a Government agency under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry itself would come forward to conduct the auctions till fresh licences are issued, to protect the interest of the farmers.

Additional Items:

No:1: Pilot Project for protecting large cardamom plantation from wild animals in Arunachal Pradesh:

Recommended to send the proposal to MoC .

Spices Park in Sikkim.

The representative of Sikkim Govt informed that the State Govt has come forward to offer suitable land to Spices Board for setting up spices Park. The Board has decided to accept the proposal and take necessary follow-up with Sikkim State Govt.

Development of Spices in Arunachal Pradesh

The Board discussed and acknowledged the support received from Arunachal Pradesh State Govt in conducting National Seminar at Itanagar and for strengthening Board's activities in

the State. It was decided to enter into an MoU with State Horticulture Dept of Arunachal Pradesh

Other items

With regard to the representation given by Shri.Ravela Gopalakrishnan, on problems faced by Chilli growers such as drying, labour, pesticide residues, farmer subsidy for testing chilli, Director (Dev) clarified that

- Two demo driers will be considered subject to sanction of additional funds from MoC
- 90% farmer subsidy for testing is already available to the farmers of chilli
- Distribution of additional IPM kits will be considered subject to sanction of additional funds from MoC

Filling up of two vacant position in Market Development Committee

Secretary informed the Board that there are two vacancies in the Market Development Committee which are to be filled from members appointed under clause (d) of gazette notification. It was decided to defer the selection as members appointed under clause (d) were either not present in the meeting or members were already nominated to other committees.

Chairman thanked all the members for making the Meeting successful and memorable.

The meeting came to a close at 6.00 PM.
