

**ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 86<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT KOCHI ON 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**MINUTES OF THE 86<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT KOCHI  
ON 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

The 86<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the newly constituted Spices Board was held at the Board room of Spices Board HO, Sugandha Bhavan, Kochi at 11 am on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Shri Subhash Vasu, Chairman, Spices Board, presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

1	Adv. Dean Kuriakose, MP (Lok Sabha)	Member
2	Ms. Jyoti Yadav, IAS Dy Secretary I/c of Export Promotion (Agri Dvn), D/o Comm.	-do-
3	Shri Stany Joseph Pothan	-do-
4	Ms. Annu Shree Poonia	-do-
5	Shri S G Medappa	-do-
6	Shri P Vikram Reddy	-do-
7	Dr. Dasam Umamaheswara Raju	-do-
8	Shri Bhojraj Saraswat	-do-
9	Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan	-do-
10	Shri T T Jose	-do-
11	Shri Sen Thabah	-do-
12	Dr. M M Naidu, Head, SFS, CSIR-CFTRI	-do-
13	Dr. V Srinivasan, ICAR-IISR	-do-
14	Shri Manjunath Narayanpur	-do-
15	Shri D Sathiyam, IFS	Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

Shri B Y Raghavendra, MP	Member
Dr. B N Srinivasa Murthy	-do-

Horticulture Commissioner, M/o Agri & Farmers Welfare  
 The Economic Adviser -do-  
 Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
 Shri Nandyala Satyanarayana -do-  
 Shri Rajenda Kasat -do-  
 Shri Ajit Pai, OSD -do-  
 Niti Aayog  
 Shri Arun Kumar -do-  
 Dy Secretary, M/o Labour & Employment

The following members were absent

Director, IIP -do-

Shri D Sathiyam IFOs, Secretary welcomed the Members for the meeting. Subsequently, Secretary requested the participants to have self-introduction, since this is the first meeting of the Board after the re-constitution.

**Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> meeting of Spices Board held at Conference Hall of ICRI, Regional Research Station, Spices Board, Saklespur on 28.12.2016**

Noted and confirmed the Minutes.

**Item No.2: Action taken report on the decisions of the 85<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board held at Saklespur on 28.12.2016**

While going through the action taken report, Ms. Annu Shree Poonia and Shri Bhojraj Saraswat stressed the need for extending the 'Project for harnessing Pepper along AP-ODISSA border in association with Coffee Board' to other areas also and to conduct spice specific training programmes.

Noted.

**Item No.3: Election of Vice Chairman**

Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan from the exporter category has been unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board. The members congratulated the Vice Chairman.

**Item No.4: Appointment of Standing Committees**

(i) Executive Committee: The Committee shall consist of

(a) The Secretary of the Board who shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee;

(b) The Vice-Chairman;

(c) One of the members appointed under clause (f) of sub rule (1) of rule 4 to be nominated yearly by rotation (members representing major spice producing states-Nominated by State Govt).

(d) The member representing the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Finance;

(e) The Director Dy. Secretary level Officer(From Spices Board)

Secretary suggested Shri P M Suresh Kumar, Director, Spices Board .

(f) A member to be elected from among the members referred to in clause (d) of sub-Rule (1) of Rule 4. (Members representing growers of Spices).

Shri S G Medappa from Karnataka .

(g) A member of be elected from among the members referred to in clause (e) of Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 4(Members representing exporters of spices).

Shri T T Jose from Idukki, Kerala

(ii) Research and Development Committee for Cardamom

The Committee shall consist of

(a) The Secretary of the Board who shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee;

(b) The Vice-Chairman;

(c) One of the members appointed under clause (f) of sub rule (1) of rule 4 to be nominated yearly by rotation (members representing major spice producing states-Nominated by State Govt).

(d) The member representing the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Agriculture;

(e) One member to represent *Elettaria cardamom* Maton growers (Small Cardamom)  
Proposed Shri Stany Joseph Pothen from Idukki, Kerala

(f) One member to represent *Amomum Subulatum* Roxb. Growers; (Large Cardamom)  
Nomination yet to be notified by GoI.

(g) The National Research Centre for Spices, Calicut; (IISR Calicut)

(h) Officer of the Board in- charge of Cardamom Research;

(i) Officer of the Board in-charge of Cardamom Development;

(j) A member to be elected from among the members referred to in clause (e) of sub-Rule (1) of Rule 4. Members representing exporters of spices)

Proposed Dr. Dasam Umamaheswara Raju from Andhra Pradesh

(iii) Market Development Committee for Spices

The Committee shall consist of

(a) The Secretary of the Board who shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee;

(b) The Vice-Chairman;

(c) The Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore

(d) The member representing the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Commerce;

(e) Three members to represent trade interests to be appointed by the Board from among themselves.

The following are the three members proposed.

1. Shri Sen Thabah from Meghalaya

2. Shri Bhojraj Saraswat from Rajasthan

3. Shri Rajendra Kasat from Madhya Pradesh (absent on the day)

(f) An officer of Export Inspection Agency of India appointed by the Board

(g) The officer of the Board dealing with Spices Market Development

(h) Two members to be elected from among the members referred to in clause (d) of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 4 (Members representing growers of spices)

The following two members are proposed.

- (i) Shri P Vikram Reddy from Telangana
- (ii) Ms. Annu Shree Poonia from Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Board unanimously agreed to the above proposals.

**Item No.5: Amendments on Rules and Regulations of Spices Board published in the Extra Ordinary Gazette of India**

Noted

**Item No.6: Approval of final accounts of Spices Board for the financial year 2018-19 through resolution by circulation**

Noted

**Item No.7: Rationalization of staff and restructuring proposal of Spices Board submitted to Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

Ms. Annu Shree Poonia and Shri Bhojraj Saraswat expressed their concern in the management Spice Parks at Kota and Jodhpur as most of the plots lying are vacant. They have also added that manpower deficiency is a great concern in most of the Offices and stressed the need of qualified Agricultural and technical personnel. Advocate Dean Kuriakose, MP has also raised the issue of inadequate staff and the workload of available officers in other offices of the Board in general and Idukki, Kerala in particular which should be brought to the notice of Hon'ble Minister as well as in Parliament. The other members have also expressed the same opinion and requested Advocate Dean Kuriakose, MP to take up the matter with the Parliament.

With regard to closing / merging of Offices, Secretary suggested that though Board proposes to close down/ merge Offices, one office will function in the centre point in all states so that implementation of schemes of the Board will not be affected.

Secretary informed that approval from Ministry is required for appointment and promotion for filling up the vacancy of retiring officers.

**Item No.8: Cardamom Auctioneer Licenses issued for the block year 2017-20**

Chairman decided to place the agenda item in the next Board meeting again.

**Item No.9: Productivity award for Small and Large Cardamom**

With regard to the question of implementation of Productivity Award for spices other than Small and Large Cardamom raised by Ms. Annu Shree Poonia, Secretary informed that the production development of all other spices is vested with the Ministry of Agriculture. But Board is giving award for exporters pertaining to spices other than cardamom also as export development and promotion of other spices which are coming under the purview of the Board.

Ms. Annu Shree Poonia, pointed out the need for imparting training on the cultivation/production aspects of various spices relating to each state.

Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan stated that presence of pesticide residue is a major constraint for export of spices, he has suggested that spices Board should handle all spices from production to export.

Dr. V Srinivasan, ICAR-IISR, briefed about the role of National research centre on seed spices, *All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues initiated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) with the participation of State Agricultural Universities for dealing with the spice specific problems, conducting training programmes, preparation of package of practices etc.*

Secretary explained that though the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce (DRPSC) for reviewing the activities and functioning of Spices Board recommended for consideration of major spices such as Pepper, turmeric, chilli, tree spices etc by Spices Board, it was not considered by the Ministry. Secretary recalled that the Productivity award function held at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in which the Woman Large Cardamom Award winner has been honoured by Hon. Minister of Agriculture, G/o Arunachal Pradesh.

**Item No.10: Cardamom Auction schedule for auction centers in Puttady and Bodinayakanur**

The Board ratified the decision taken by the Secretary.

Shri Stany Joseph Pothan raised about the issue of re-pooling and artificial coloring of cardamom and Import of cardamom from Guatemala which also comes for auction, will affect the farmers very badly.

The matter was discussed at length and decided to form a Sub-Committee to look into the various issues involved and study the e-auction process.

**Item No.11: Formation of spice specific Task Force Committee (TFC) to identify the issues and challenges in export**

Noted.

Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan has informed that the authorities of Saudi Arabia have insisted for TUV Certificate which is mandatory for import of spices for which they are charging 450\$ per consignment.

Secretary briefed about the Board's proposal for the Delegation visit to Saudi Arabia, which includes traders, exporters and Board's Officers. As per the advice of Indian Embassy, the visit was postponed to December 2019 though proposed during October.

**Item No.12: Export Excellency Award for the year 2015-16 & 2016-17**

Noted.

**Item No.13: Up-scaling of Bio-control agent production in ICRI**

Approved

**Item No.14: Up scaling the production of Bio-control agent – Entomo Pathogenic Nematode (EPN) in ICRI Myladumpara**

Approved.

**Item No.15: Soil testing on service charge basis from ICRI, Myladumpara**

Advocate Dean Kuriakose and Shri Stany Joseph Pothan, have opined that this is not the right time to collect service charge for soil testing though Dr. V Srinivasan from ICAR-IISR suggested for collection of minimum handling fee of Rs. 100/- per sample.

**Item No.16: The project on Transcriptome is aimed at identifying disease resistant genes of (1) Azhukal disease of small cardamom and (2) Chirkey virus of Large Cardamom**

Approved.

**Item No.17: Water and waste treatment plant to ICRI Myladumpara**

As the project is carrying out on consultancy mode for an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs, as suggested by Ms. Jyoti Yadav, IAS, Deputy Secretary in charge of Export Promotion, DoC, it has been decided to collect the estimate for the project after negotiation. Secretary suggested to submit the details of the Project in the next meeting.

**Item No.18: Constitution of Committee to monitor and review the functioning of Spices Parks**

Ms. Annu Shree Poonia and Shri Bhojraj Saraswat, expressed their concern in the management at Kota and Jodhpur Park as most of plots are vacant.

Shri Manjunath Narayanpur, enquired about the status of Spice Park in Haveri.

It is informed that since MoC has stopped the fund under ASIDE and the Board is not in a position to undertake the Project. However, technical support in terms of project preparation will be provided by the Board.

Secretary expressed the opinion that it was decided not to start any new Spice Parks due to functional issues, stoppage of fund from MoC under ASIDE, lack of manpower etc. Group of exporters / FPOs can propose from their side, technical support can be provided from Board. Now, Board is depending on Private entrepreneurs for running common facilities established in Park.



On an enquiry about the spice specific Laboratory at Jodhpur by Ms. Annu Shree Poonia, Secretary informed that if State Government is willing to start a Laboratory, Spices Board will extend the technical support. For providing support under TIES, land should be belonged to State Government.

**Item No.19: Status of Spices Parks**

Ms. Annu Shree Poonia, expressed her concern in the working of Park. Out of 20 plots allotted in Jodhpur 16 plots are vacant. Construction is not yet started though allotted in 2013.

Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan informed that if the construction is not started within the specified period, the allotted plots will have to be taken back by the Board. As far as Spices Board is concerned, it is informed that withdrawal can be made after the issue of show cause notices to the exporters who have not commenced the work.

While pointing out the lack of fund from MoC, it was stressed by ShriStany Joseph Pothen that though field inspection is completed, the payment of replanting subsidy is pending.

Ms. Jyoti Yadav, IAS,Dy. Secretary, DoC suggested that Board should convince the necessity of fund and pursue with MoC.

Chairman suggested to form a committee to review of the functioning of Spices Parks by including the board members of the concerned region.

**Item No.20: Project on Development of Packaging Standards for bulk & consumer package of spices submitted by Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai.**

The Board noted.

**Item No.21: Export performance of spices for the year 2018-19 compared to 2017-18**

The Board noted.

**Item No.22: Establishment of spice complex at NAMCHEYBONG, PAKYONG, East Sikkim**

The Board noted.

**Item No.23: Fixing Minimum Import Price (MIP) for Pepper and other measures taken to prevent the cheaper import of pepper from other origins into India**

The Board noted.

**Item No.24: Buyer Seller Meets for Spices**

Secretary briefed the necessity of conducting BSMs which facilitates linkages/ interaction between exporters and producers across the country. On enquiry by the Board members, it is informed that Board used to announce through website regarding the conduct of BSMs and invite the local Board members.

Chairman suggested to get the feedback of the BSMs conducted. It is informed that feed backs have been collected from participants of all BSMs.

**Item No.25: Quality concerns – Suspension of import of Chillies into Mexico from India, detention of cardamom export consignments in Saudi Arabia and adulteration issue in Cumin – steps taken by Spices Board to address the issues**

Secretary briefed about the Board's proposal for the Delegation visit to Saudi Arabia, which includes traders, exporters and Board's Officers. As per the advice of Indian Embassy, the visit was postponed to December 2019 though it was proposed during October 2019.

The Quality concern of Chilli and Cassia discussed. Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, informed that Mexican Govt. is going to implement very strict MRLs for Chilli from February which will be difficult to meet.

Secretary stressed the need for strengthening the Lab Network before the implementation of the policy by Mexican Govt.

With regard to adulteration issue in Cumin, Board conducted surprise inspection with the support of Customs and containers of adulterated cumin were handed over to FSSAI. Three such consignments were detained by FSSAI.

Though the Board is having a Laboratory at Kandla, lack of manpower is the main hindrance for conducting more surveillance checks.

**Item No.26: Spices clusters in the Agri Export Policy notified by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

The Board noted.

**Item No.27: Flood Relief Programmes for small cardamom replanting, material production and rejuvenation in the flood affected districts of Kerala and Karnataka**

Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, requested for payment of subsidy under Cardamom Replanting Scheme and inclusion of more area under Rejuvenation.

Advocate Dean Kuriakose, MP suggested for implementation of Rain Water Harvesting Scheme.

The Board noted.

**Item No.28: Project on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for empowerment of farmers engaged in spice cultivation under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**

Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, suggested for implementation of the Project in Tamil Nadu and Director(Res) agreed to conduct the same in March 2020.

The Board noted.

**Item No.29: Project on environmental impact assessment of pesticides in cardamom cultivating areas of Idukki District with Ground Water Department, Government of Kerala**

The Board noted.

Regarding the filling up the vacancy, Secretary informed that the approval from Ministry is required for recruitment or promotion as same is not happening due to austerity measures.

**Item No.30: Entomology project on “Evaluation of Rallis Insecticide, Hunk (Acephate 9% SG) on Small Cardamom” (2018-20), funded by Rallis India Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru**

The Board noted.

**Item No.31: Network project on All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Spices (AICRPS), with ICAR-IISR, New Delhi**

The Board noted.

**Item No.32: Preparation and compilation of Plant Protection Codes (PPCS) for small and large cardamom**

While discussing about the use of integrated pest and disease management, Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, stressed the need for adopting uniform policy on ban of chemicals/ fertilizers. He pointed out that most of the chemicals banned in Kerala, were widely used in Tamil Nadu.

Chairman suggested to bring the policy to the notice of the Govt. of Kerala to take necessary action so as to ensure universality.

The Board noted.

**Item No.33: Status of consignment of samples analyzed in QEL, Spices Board**

The Board noted.

**Item No.34: Medium Term Frame Work Plan 2017-18 to 2019-20**

Secretary opined that due to inadequate allotment of fund from Government, Board could not take new assignments.

Ms. Jyoti Yadav, IAS, Dy. Secretary, DoC suggested to pursue the matter with MoC.

**Item No.35: Sessions of CODEX Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) and Codex Standards for spices and culinary herbs**

The Board noted.

**Item No.36: STDF project submitted by Spices Board to WTO**

The Board noted.

**Item No.37: Issuing Cardamom Registration Certificate by Revenue Department, Govt of Kerala**

Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, informed that the Cardamom Growers Association has taken up the issue with Govt. of Kerala and Government decided to issue permanent Cardamom Registration Certificate.

The Board noted.

**Item No.38: Relaxation of eligibility criteria for availing small cardamom replanting schemes under Food Relief Programme**

The Board noted.

**Item No.39: Status of Spice Development Agency (SDA), Saffron Production and Export Development Agency (SPEDA) and Reconstitution of SDA**

The Board noted.

**Item No.40: Status Report on establishing of Quality Evaluation Laboratories**

The Board noted.

**Item No.41: Upcoming events in 2020**

The Board noted.

**Item No.42: Construction of Cold Storage in Spice Park, Guna – refund of amount to APEDA.**

The Board approved.

Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, suggested a proposal to construct a cold storage in Spices Park at Guntur so that the price of Bydagi/ Guntur Chilli can be controlled.

Director informed that AP State warehousing corporation has established cold storage in Guntur Spice Park.

**Item No.43: Engaging Consultant – Assistants**

The Board approved.

Other items discussed with the permission of the Chair.

- 1) Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, suggested to have the Chairman as a part of Committee and to send proposal from Board's side.
- 2) Shri Vikram Reddy, suggested for establishment of Turmeric Board in Nizamabad. Secretary informed that there were requests for establishing Boards for other spices which were not considered by the Govt due to austerity measures. But in order to address the issues of production, domestic marketing and export at regional//State level, Spices Development Agencies (SDA) are constituted by the Board for major spices with Chief Secretary of the concerned spice producing state as the Chairman of SDA. Apart from SDAs, the Board is in the process of constituting task force for major spices. Secretary also informed the highlights of Agricultural Export Policy 2018 which focus on setting-up of clusters in different states for identified Spices and state-of-the-art testing laboratories and other infrastructure to increase agriculture exports with greater involvement of State Governments.
- 3) Shri Manjunath Narayanpur, suggested for Spice Park at Haveri. Secretary informed that, the Board is not in a position to undertake the Project as financial support from MoC under ASIDE is discontinued and Board finds difficulty in maintaining the already established Spices Parks. However, technical support will be provided by the Board, if the State Govt comes forward to establish the Spices Park at Haveri under TIES.
- 4) Shri Sen Thabah, opined for allotment of vehicle in Arunchal Pradesh for completion of field inspections in time. It was informed that permission has

been given to hire the vehicle during inspection periods to complete the field inspections in time. It is also informed that the requirement for a vehicle in Arunchal Pradesh is taken with the Ministry for approval.

- 5) Shri Sen Thabah, also suggested to conduct the next Board meeting at Sikkim for which Secretary has agreed for consideration.

Meeting came to a close by 3.00 p.m. with a vote of thanks by Director.

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