



SPICES BOARD

(Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt. of India)

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Advisory on diligent use of plant protection chemicals in Small Cardamom

As per the standards prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the maximum limit of chemical residues (MRLs) in Small Cardamom has been fixed as below;

Sl.No	Plant Protection Chemicals	MRL (mg/kg)
1	Acetamiprid	0.1
2	Cyhalothrin (includes lambda cyhalothrin)	2
3	Cypermethrin (including alpha and zeta- cypermethrin)	3
4	Profenofos	3
5	Triazophos	4
6	Dithiocarbamates	0.1

Among these chemicals, Dithiocarbamates refer to a group of pesticides, under which usually eight chemicals are considered viz. Ferbam, Mancozeb, Maneb, Metiram, Propineb, Thiram, Zineb and Ziram. In this regard, it may be noted that the Govt. of India has initiated the consultation process for curtailing the use of a set of pesticides in the country, including chemicals such as Mancozeb, Thiram, Zineb and Ziram, which are part of the Dithiocarbamate group.

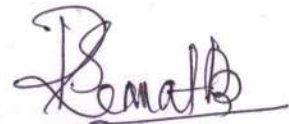
As communicated vide Spices Board Circular No: MKT- ENG-DG/001/2018 dated 30th April 2020, export consignments of Small Cardamom to Saudi Arabia are checked for the chemicals mentioned in the table above. The presence of pesticide residues above the MRLs will lead to non-clearance of export consignments.

Random analysis of small cardamom samples collected at farm-gate level by Spices Board, has revealed that while many samples comply with the Codex limits for all chemicals, some of the samples analyzed contained Dithiocarbamates, above the prescribed MRLs.

In this regard, Spices Board is promoting good agricultural practices, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) & use of bio control agents and is creating awareness through campaigns, trainings, etc. Also, the Board is facilitating collaborative movements amongst growers through Spice Producer Societies (SPS), providing R&D support and strengthening their direct linkages with exporters, to ensure sustainable practices in the sector.

In this connection, all growers of small cardamom are hereby advised to undertake judicious use of plant protection chemicals in the small cardamom plantations, so that the small cardamom produced by them adheres to the relevant standards of food safety and quality.

As non-compliance with the MRL limits can lead to negative trade implications, exporters of small cardamom are advised to strengthen backward linkages with farmers, farmers' groups, Spice Producers Societies etc, and to collaborate with Spices Board in ensuring production of small cardamom compliant with the food safety and quality standards. Further, the exporters may promote such compliant production sources, by procuring cardamom from them for exports, in adherence with the provisions of Cardamom (Marketing & Licensing) Rules.



Director (R&D)