



ISS Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SPICES

No. 7 (1)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

SPICES PRODUCTION NEEDS TO BE GEARED UP

Though India has been the largest producer, consumer and exporter of Spices, the Spice Industry is facing challenges by various other Countries who have taken up cultivation of spices like pepper, cardamom etc. in the recent past. It is heartening to note that Spice Exports have registered a substantial growth during the last one decade. It has increased from 169636 tonnes valued at US \$ 1.35 million in 1990-91 to 235611 tonnes valued at US\$ 472 million in 1999-2000. During the year 2003-04, the export has declined to 246566 mt valued at US \$ 415 million. Still India is in a prominent position in the world spice trade with 46% share in volume and 27% in value. The Spices Board has made substantial efforts in formulating and implementing three tier quality certification programme conforming to HACCP. Value addition of spices needs to be geared up to realise high returns. India has made substantial progress in supply of spice oils and oleoresins in the world particularly in case of curry powder, spice powder, spice mixtures and spices in consumer packets. The recent steps taken by the Spices Board in popularizing the spices like cardamom in consumer packets is a step in the right direction, in increasing the indigenous use of spices in India. Since the prices of major beverage crops like coffee and tea is less, it is quite imperative to resort to crop diversification with spices.

Vanilla which is the most high value spice next only to Saffron is making in roads in arecanut, coconut and coffee plantations. The crop compatibility and the sustained production has to be ensured to get the desired returns to the farmers. Vanilla has been the front runner amongst the spices in recent years. The National Seminar on Vanilla cultivation in India – Aspects and Prospects held at Sirsi during 29-30 April, 2004 was attended by nearly 300 participants. The quality of planting material of vanilla needs to be ensured. Adequate care should be taken to avoid the planting material infested with virus which may otherwise ruin the vanilla production programme in the Country. It would be ideal to cultivate vanilla in combination with the other crops viz., arecanut and coconut. Several farmers have made consistent efforts in evolving the package of practices based on the location and the crop combination. The fluctuation in the vanilla price is a great concern for the growers. The International and National policies have to be evolved in the vanilla market so as to get steady and remunerative price.

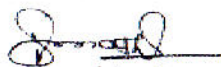
Ginger has again made in roads to the non traditional areas, as seen in case of Karnataka.

There again the farmers need to take appropriate crop production and crop protection measures to increase the production and productivity of ginger to realize higher returns. The drought like situation prevailing in India might affect the production of seed spices as well during the current year.

The production of chillies, onion and garlic will also face the fury of drought in various States. So it is imperative to evolve strategies for drought management on long term perspectives.

A number of medicinal and aromatic crops which are native of western ghats need to be domesticated and cultivated on commercial scale. Farmers need to be encouraged with tie up with pharmaceutical industry with an assured buy back system.

There has been a gradual increase in demand for organically cultivated spices and medicinal crops. Here again the market intelligence has to be thoroughly looked into and farmers assured remunerative premium price.



(V. S. Korikanthimath)

ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE FOR ISS

The term of the present executive would be coming to an end by this year end. Hence, election of New Executive is imperative. It is proposed to conduct election for the posts of President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and five executive council members.

Please note the following dates in this connection

Last date for receipt of nomination	: 15 July 2004
Scrutiny of nominations	: 20 July 2004
Intimation of nominated members	: 28 July 2004
Withdrawal of nomination	: 10 August 2004
Dispatch of ballot papers	: 01 September 2004
Last date for receipt of ballot papers by returning officer	: 20 October 2004
Declaration of result	: 01 November 2004

As per the byelaws, President/One of the Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer should be from the Headquarters ie, from IISR, Calicut.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF ISS

Indian Society for Spices is planning to have its annual general body meeting at Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut on 1st November 2004. To create a forum for all ISS members, researchers, farmers and traders to meet and interact with each other, a National Symposium is proposed coinciding with the annual general body meeting. The election results will also be declared on the same day and the new executive would take over. Hence, all the ISS members are requested to block the date for the above purpose.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Indian Society for Spices is proposing to conduct a National Symposium titled "SYMSAC I" during 1-2 November 2004. The theme of the symposium would be Commercialization of Spices and Aromatic Crops.

Sessions on Crop Production, Protection, Improvement, Management, Value Addition and Marketing and Organic Farming are included. First circular is getting ready and it will be dispatched soon. Research articles, both oral and posters, apart from invited talk are accepted. Kindly contribute your valuable research articles.

(Refer last page for further details).

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON VANILLA IN INDIA - PROCEEDINGS

As the vanilla craze is growing very high among farmers for its unimaginative market price, Indian Society for Spices thought it is apt to have a discussion on pros and cons of vanilla cultivation. Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka and Spices Board, Kochi came forward and agreed to Co-sponsor National Seminar on Vanilla. This resulted in conduct of a National Seminar on Vanilla in India - Aspects and Prospects at Sirsi, Uttar Kannada Dist., Karnataka during 29-30 April 2004.

The Proceedings of the Seminar is given below

The Seminar on Vanilla in India - Aspects and Prospects was organized by Indian Society for Spices, Calicut, in association with Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut; ICAR Research Complex, Goa; Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka; Spices Board, Kochi; Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut and University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The meeting was held at the TSS Hall of APMC Yard, Sirsi, Karnataka.

The meeting was presided by Dr. S K Patil, DI (Forestry), College of Forestry, Sirsi, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka. Dr. T Vasantha Kumar, Director of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka, inaugurated the meeting.

Keynote address was delivered by Dr. S A Patil, Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka. Dr. V S Korikanthimath, President, Indian Society for Spices presented the modalities and need of the seminar.

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions. The first session on **Development and Crop Improvement in Vanilla** was chaired by Mr. P A Mathew, IISR, Calicut. Dr. P Rajeev, IISR, Calicut and Dr. R Vasudeva, College of Forestry, Sirsi, were the Rapporteurs. Mr. T D John, Director (Development), Spices Board, Kochi, spoke on History of Vanilla Development in India and Role of Spices Board. Dr. K J Madhusoodanan, ICRI, Myladumpara, presented the topic on Crop Improvement in Vanilla. Dr. M R Sudharshan, ICRI, (RS) Sakleshpur, spoke on Production of Quality Planting Material.

The second session on **Cultivation of Vanilla** was chaired by Dr. S I Hanamashetty, UAS, KRC College of Horticulture, Karnataka. Dr. (Mrs.) M R Shylaja, Associate Professor, Dept. of Horticulture, Kerala Agricultural University, Trichur and Dr. N K Hegde, UAS, KRC College of Horticulture, Arabhavi, Karnataka, were the Rapporteurs. Dr. V Krishnakumar, CPCRI, Kasaragod, presented the talk on Prospects of Vanilla as a mixed crop in Coconut, Arecanut, Coffee and other plantation crops. Mr. K S Ashok Kumar, Director, Lotus Horticulture Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, spoke on Intensive Cultivation of Vanilla under controlled Conditions.

The third session on **Harvesting, Processing and Marketing** was Chaired by Dr. K J Madhusoodanan, Deputy Director (Research), ICRI, Myladumpara. Mr. T Jose, Sr. Field Officer, Spices Board, Sirsi and Dr. G O Manjunatha, Asst. Professor, College of Forestry, Sirsi, were the Rapporteurs. Dr. K J Madhusoodanan, Deputy Director, ICRI, Myladumpara presented a talk on Harvesting and Processing of Vanilla beans. Mr. T D John, Director (Development), Spices Board, Cochin, spoke on Marketing of Vanilla.

The fourth session on **Plant Protection** on 30th April was chaired by Dr. S Lingappa, Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad. Dr. R Suseela Bhai, IISR, Calicut and Dr. S T Prabhu, College of Forestry, Sirsi, were the Rapporteurs. Dr. M N Venugopal, IISR, CRC, Appangala, Karnataka, presented the topic on Disease Management in Vanilla. Mr. Prakash, ICRI (RS), Sakleshpur, Karnataka presented the topic on Insect Pest Management in Vanilla.

The fifth session on **Practical Problems faced by farmers and Panel Discussion** was chaired by Dr. Ajith Shirodkar, President, Western Ghat, Kokum Development Foundation, Goa. Dr. T John Zachariah, IISR, Calicut and Dr. S L Madlwalar, Professor, College of Forestry, Sirsi, were the Rapporteurs. Mr. Rajendra Hegde and Mr. Shankar Hegde, farmers' representatives presented the issues faced by various groups in Vanilla cultivation. Dr. T John Zachariah, Secretary, Indian Society for Spices, proposed the vote of thanks.

In the post lunch session the delegates visited two prominent Vanilla gardens. Over two hundred delegates representing different States of India attended the two days seminar. The general response from delegates about the seminar was highly satisfactory.

THE ISS FAMILY - KNOW YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS (Continued from previous issue)

Life members

Mr. Dilip Kumar Dash, Jr. Breeder (Spices), HARS, Pottangi, Koraput, Orissa

Dr. Dinesh Kumar, M., Associate Professor (Agron.), Zonal Agricultural Research Station, Mudigere (Post), Chickmagalur (Dist.), Pin - 576 132

Dr. Dinesh Prasad Verma, Technical Director, Imt Technologies Pvt. Ltd., 'Shri Krishna', Krishnakeval Nagar, 1-a, Kondhwa Khurd, Pune - 411 048 (M S)

Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Gopathi Farms, Village Singapura, Vidyanarayapura (P.o), Bangalore - 560 097.

Dr. Durga Raju, M. N., 11, Sathavahana Nagar, Sanivarapupet Post., Eluru, Pin - 534 006

Dr. Dutta, S. C., Senior Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, P. B. No. 212, G Sector, P.O. Naharlagun, Pin - 791 110

Dr. Eapen, S. J. Scientist (SG) (Nematology), Indian Institute of Spices Research, P. B. No. 1701, Calicut, Pin - 673 012.

Dr. Edison, S., Director, Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Sreekariyam, Trivandrum, Pin - 695 017

Dr. Farooqi, A. A., Professor of Horticulture (M & Ap), Division of Horticulture, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bangalore, Pin - 560 065

Mr. Gaganesh, P., 69 B, Pocket Iv, Mayur Vihar PG-1, Delhi, Pin - 110 091

Mr. Ganapathy, K. M., C/O Harrison Malayalam Limited, P. B. No. 501, Cochin, Pin - 682 00

SYMSAC-I COMMERCIALIZATION OF SPICES, MEDICINAL AND AROMATIC CROPS

The Indian Society for Spices (ISS), Kozhikode, is a professional society dedicated to research and development of spices, medicinal and aromatic plants functioning since 1993 at the Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode. The Society has already organized ten National Seminars at different parts of the country on need based topics.

Spices, medicinal and aromatic crops contribute about 500 to 600 million US\$ as foreign exchange to India. There are about 1000-2000 scientists involved in the research and development activities of these crops. Indian Society for Spices (ISS) functioning as a forum for interaction of the various groups involved in this sector has been regularly organizing symposia on varied topics since its inception.

The Society has now decided to name its future Symposia as series of SYMSAC (Symposia on Spices and Aromatic Crops). The first of this series (SYMSAC-I) is scheduled to be held during **1-2 November 2004** at Kozhikode. The focal theme for 2004 is **Commercialization of Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops**. Following technical sessions are planned.

- Biodiversity, Conventional Breeding and Biotechnology
- Sustainable Production Systems
- Diagnostics and Biotechnology in Control of Crop Pests
- Commercialization of Technologies
- Indigenous Knowledge Vs Improved Technology
- Plenary Session

Seminar venue: Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala, India

Date: 1-2 November 2004

Registration Fee: Rs. 1000 for Non members Rs.750 for Life members
Rs. 500 for Students

Last date for Abstract and Registration: **20 September 2004**

Full paper: **31 October 2004**

Chairman

Dr. V A Parthasarathy, Director, Indian Institute of Spices Research, P. O. Marikunnu, Kozhikode – 673012, Kerala. Tel: 0495-2731410. E-mail: parthasarathy@iisr.org

Co-chairman

Dr. V. S. Korikanthimath, Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa, Ela, Old Goa, Pin – 403 402, Goa. E-mail: director@icargoa.nic.in

Organizing Secretary

Dr. T John Zachariah, Secretary, ISS, Indian Institute of Spices Research, P. O. Marikunnu, Kozhikode – 673 012, Kerala. Tel: 0495-2731410. E-mail: zacjohntj@yahoo.com

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