



# ISS Newsletter

NEWSLETTER OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR SPICES

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

### Gear up production of Seed Spices

Seed spices are aromatic vegetable products of tropical origin. They are mostly used in pulverised state, primarily for seasoning or garnishing food and beverages. They are characterised by pungency, strong odour, sweet or bitter taste. Seed spices possess several other properties like anti-oxidant, used as preservatives in pickles, chutneys and a few possess antibiotic properties. The major seed spices are coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek whereas, ajowain, dill (sowa), nigella (kalongi), celery, caraway and anise constitute minor group. The seed spices have their centre of origin primarily in Mediterranean region and South Europe.

Almost all the seed spice crops are being cultivated in India, thus serve as the largest seed spices producing country in the world. The prominent states where seed spices produced are Rajasthan and Gujarat, while other states where commonly grown are Haryana, Punjab, M.P., Bihar, U.P., West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. India is the world's largest consumer and exporter of seed spices. This group of spices accounts for about 36 percent and 17 percent of the total area and production of spices in the country. Seed spices are grown in about 9.7 lakh ha of which about 5 lakh ha is covered in Rajasthan alone. The total production of seed spices in the country ranges between 5-6 lakh tonnes annually.

India exports about 10% of its total production which amounts to foreign exchange earning worth 210 crores. The global demand estimated for seed spices world wide is 98000 tonnes, of which, at present our country is able to export about 57000 tonnes annually, which is 57 percent of the total demand. There has been an ever increasing demand of seed spices and importing countries look at India as consistent source. For long, Indian exports mainly consisted of bulk packaged raw spices. Now with the changing market trends, consumer's preferences, health awareness and the emergence of super markets, the focal point of export has shifted towards value-added spice products. The main value-added spice products of seed spices are spice oil, oleoresins, ground spices, curry powder, consumer packed spices and organic spices. To further expand export in the world market, more and more value-added products should be developed.

**Proceedings of the SYMSAC-II held at National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Pune during 25-27 November 2005**

Indian Society for Spices in collaboration with National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Pune; NRC Seed Spices, Ajmer and ICAR, New Delhi organized the SYMSAC-II - Current trends in onion, garlic, chillies and seed spices - production, marketing and utilization at the Conference Hall of National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Rajgurunagar, Pune, Maharashtra, during 25-27 November 2005. Dr. G Kalloo, Deputy Director General (Hort.), ICAR, Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan-II, Pusa, New Delhi inaugurated the Symposium. Dr. M R Thakur, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Y S Parmar University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh presided over the function. Dr. K E Lawande, Director, NRCOG & Chairman of the Symposium welcomed the gathering. Dr. V S Korikanthimath, President, Indian Society for Spices briefed about the activities of ISS and Dr. T John Zachariah, Secretary, ISS introduced the technical sessions of the symposium.

Chief guest, Dr. G Kalloo released publications of SYMSAC-II during the occasion and also presented the Dr. J S Pruthi Award for best paper published in Volume 13 of the Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops to Dr. B Sasikumar. Dr. V S R Krishna Prasad, Convenor, SYMSAC-II proposed vote of thanks.

This was followed by the technical sessions:

Technical Session I - "Biodiversity, Genetics, Breeding and Biotechnology (Crop Improvement)" was chaired by Dr. Y S Nerkar, Ex-VC, MPKV & Director (ARE), Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune. There were eight lead talks in the session covering onion, garlic, chilli, paprika and seed spices. Sixty seven posters including sixty four in biodiversity and three in biotechnology were presented in the session.

This was followed by ISS General Body Meeting.

Technical Session II - "Sustainable Production Systems (Crop Production)" held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005, was chaired by Dr. Kirti Singh, Former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi. There were five lead talks in the session covering onion, garlic, chilli and seed spices. Eighty nine posters were presented in the session

Technical Session III - "Plant Protection" was chaired by Dr. S J Singh, Ex-Head, IARI, Regional Station, Pune. There were five lead talks in the session covering onion and garlic. Twenty six posters were presented in the session

Technical Session IV - "Processing and Value Addition" was chaired by Dr. Nawab Ali, DDG (Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi. There were four lead talks in the

session covering onion, garlic, chilli and seed spices. Twelve posters were presented in the session.

Technical Sessions V & VI - "Trade Related Issues" and "Policy Issues and Farmers Interaction" were chaired by Dr. S Dave, Director, APEDA, New Delhi. There were seven lead talks in both sessions covering onion, garlic, chilli, seed spices and various other topics. Dr. R K Chowdhury, Project Director, National Seed Project (Crops), IARI, New Delhi delivered a special talk on "Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right's Act and Its Implementation". Mr. Rudra Pratap Singh, Indore presented the lead talk on "Various problems faced by Indian farmers". Dr. V D Patil, Director of Horticulture, Govt. of Maharashtra presented a talk on "State Govt. programmes for onion development with special emphasis on National Horticultural Mission". Mrs. Laxmi Raju, Dy. Director, Department of Horticulture, Karnataka made presentation on "Development programmes of Karnataka State particularly for the Horticultural crops" and Dr. Pradeep Parathe, Assistant Manager, NABARD talked on "Role and programmes of NABARD in the development of production and marketing of onion and garlic". Four posters were presented in the session.

Plenary session was chaired by Dr. M R Thakur, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Dr. Y S Parmar University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh and co-chaired by Dr. V S Korikanthimath, Director, ICAR Research Complex for Goa and President, Indian Society for Spices. The Rapporteurs of the various sessions presented the recommendations. Two best poster awards were presented to the awardees by Dr. M R Thakur, Chairman of the Session and Dr. K E Lawande, Chairman of the Symposium.

Dr. T John Zachariah, Organizing Secretary, SYMSAC-II proposed vote of thanks.

**List of recommendations**

- Role of micronutrients on yield and quality
- Intensification of research on *kharif* onion
- Characterization of viruses infecting seed spices, onion and garlic and breeding for disease and pest resistance
- Development of varieties with improved storage quality and high productivity
- Training farmers on good agricultural practices
- Strengthening of collaboration
- Production of quality, virus-free planting materials
- Extensive survey on diseases and pests for preparing maps at different agro-ecological zones.

**Awards**

**Dr. J S Pruthi Award** was awarded to the paper entitled "'IISR Thevam', 'IISR Malabar Excel' and 'IISR Girimunda' - three new black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) clones" authored by B Sasikumar, P Haridas, K Johnson George, K V Saji, T John Zachariah, P N Ravindran, K Nirmal Babu, B Krishnamoorthy, P A Mathew and V A Parthasarathy, published in the Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops, Volume 13 (2004).

**Best Poster Awards in SYMSAC-II - Dr. Alapatti Prasada Rao Award** was awarded to the following two papers

- a). "Gujarat Cumin - 4' is a new wilt resistant cumin variety having high yield potential and better seed quality in India" authored by K P Patel, N R Patel, M M Patel and A V Agalodiya, Main Spices Research Station, S D Agricultural University, Jagudan, Gujarat
- b) "Preliminary screening of garlic varieties through RAPD technique" authored by Anil Khar, Asha Devi and K E Lawande, NRCOG, Pune.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON 25.11.05**

The annual general body meeting of Indian Society for Spices was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005 between 5.30 to 6.15 pm at the Conference Hall of National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Rajgurunagar, Pune, Maharashtra. Dr. V S Korikanthimath, President, ISS presided over the meeting. Dr. T John Zachariah, Secretary, ISS welcomed the members and delegates of SYMSAC-II. In his introductory remarks, President highlighted the technological intervention by R and D organizations in improving the production and productivity of various spices.

Secretary presented the proceedings of the General Body held at IISR, Calicut during 1<sup>st</sup> November 2004. He also presented the report of Society's activities for 2004-05. He informed that the society received income tax exemption from 01.04.2004 to 31.03.2007. Dr. K N Shiva, Joint Secretary, ISS, presented the annual audited accounts of the Society and the same was approved by the house.

**Spices Board training scheme of farm resource persons**

Spices Board is planning to train unemployed youth to become agricultural resource persons. The training schedule is given below;

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. March 2006 to May 2006        | - For Kerala                                   |
| 2. August 2006 to October 2006   | - For Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. November 2006 to January 2007 | - For Northeastern states                      |

He informed that fixed deposit amount rose to Rs. 10,13,537.00. General Body approved both the items.

Dr. N K Leela, Editor, Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops presented the editors report. While highlighting the activities of editorial board, she informed that the present editorial board published Vol. 13 (2) and Vol. 14 (1). Vol. 14 (2) is pending in the press. During the period 71 manuscripts were received out of which 28 were accepted and 22 were rejected. About 20 manuscripts are at various stages of processing.

Dr. J S Pruthi award for the best paper published in Vol. 13 is awarded to the paper "'IISR Thevam', 'IISR Malabar Excel' and 'IISR Girimunda' - three new black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.) clones" authored by B Sasikumar, P Haridas, K Johnson George, K V Saji, T John Zachariah, P N Ravindran, K Nirmal Babu, B Krishnamoorthy, P A Mathew and V A Parthasarathy. Vol. 13 (1), pages 1-5 (2004).

The present membership of the society is 500, which includes 443 life members, 28 ordinary members, 25 institutional members, 2 sustaining members and 2 honorary patrons.

Two poster awards were presented in SYMSAC-II. General Body has approved the institution of ISS Fellowship. Executive Council is authorized to select initially 15 fellows from active ISS life/ordinary members who have not crossed 65 years of age. New fellows will have to be nominated by existing ISS Fellows.

Under any other item General Body approved revision of library subscription rates to Rs. 1000 per 2 issues of Journal of Spices and Aromatic Crops. This will come in to effect from 1st April 2006.

Dr. V S Korikanthimath, President thanked Dr. K E Lawande, Director, National Research Centre for Onion and Garlic, Pune for hosting the SYMSAC-II (Symposium on Spices and Aromatic Crops) at NRCOG, Pune. He also thanked all the committee members at NRCOG and office bearers of the Society for their active co-operation and support.

The meeting came to an end with Dr. K N Shiva, Joint Secretary proposing the formal vote of thanks, followed by Dinner at CIRT Guest House, Pune city.

Training will be imparted on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for all major export oriented spices such as vanilla, cardamom (small & large), chilli, pepper, ginger, turmeric, herbal spices, seed spices and tree spices. The objective is to train a large number of resource personnel from the rural communities so that they would provide an interface between the Board and spice producers of the area.

**Curriculum:** Practical training on production of quality planting materials, organic inputs such as vermi-compost, conventional composting, biodynamic preparations, traditional knowledge based inputs such as panchagavya, bio-fertilizers, bio-agents (Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Mycorrhizae etc.), identification and management of major pests and diseases of spices, soil testing and advisory services, post harvest handling and processing including on-farm value addition will be imparted during the programme.

Medium of instruction will be English

**Location:** Training will be provided at the Indian Cardamom Research Institute, SPICES BOARD, Myladumpara, Idukki District, Kerala State or at other suitable locations in partnership with State Agricultural Universities and Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut.

**Duration:** The duration of the programme is **three months**. It is a compulsory residential programme.

**Eligibility:** Unemployed youths from agricultural families including agricultural labourers with 10+2 (Science) or VHSC (Agriculture) or 10<sup>th</sup> Pass/Arts Graduate from special zones in remote areas like Northeast are eligible. Candidates who are members of Kudumbasree or similar farmer's group will be given preference. Candidates whose age is between 18-30 years as on 01.01.2006 only need to apply (33 years for SC/ST).

**Stipend for trainees:** Rs. 1000/- per month for the period of training to cover expenses for travel, food and stay. Trainees from Northeastern states will be provided with Second Class Rail fare from the place of domicile to training station and back.

**Last date of receipt of application:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006.

Submission of the application: Application in the prescribed format (attached or may be downloaded from website [www.indianspices.com](http://www.indianspices.com)) neatly hand written or typed on plain paper shall be addressed to "The Director (Research), Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Spices Board, Kailasanadu P. O., Idukki District – 685 553 or the Deputy Director (Development), Spices Board, U N Bezbarua Road, Silpukhuri, Guwahati, Assam – 781 003. Tel: 0361 – 2664228 (for north eastern applicants).

### Application form

1. Name of applicant :
2. Date of birth\* :
3. Educational qualifications :
4. Present address :  
(with pin code and telephone numbers)
5. Permanent address :
6. Occupation of Father/Guardian :
7. Do you belong to SC/ST/OBC\* : Yes / No  
Are you agriculturist cultivating own land : Yes / No  
Or  
-do- cultivating land taken on lease/rent : Yes / No  
Are you an agricultural Labourer : Yes / No
8. Details of agricultural land if any, owned or leased :  
Area. Ha \_\_\_\_\_ Sy. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_ Taluk \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you member of any farmer group : Yes / No  
If yes, give name and address of the group\* :  
\* Attach Attested valid proof

**I certify that the details and information given in this form are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

Applicant's signature

**Selected applicants shall be intimated by post and no enquiry on the stage of selection shall be entertained**