



# ALL INDIA SPICES EXPORTERS FORUM

WELCOME

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Grand Hotel, M G Road, Ernakulam



# Annual Report by Chairman Cherian Xavier



# Membership

Membership Total 168 ( 182 )

Ordinary 138 ( 150)

Associate 30 (32)



## Managing Committee

1. Cherian Xavier
2. Emmanuel Nambusseril
3. Rajiv Palicha
4. Prakash Namboodiri
5. Geemon Korah
6. Ramkumar Menon
7. Jojan L Malayil
8. Sibi K Thomas
9. K K Bhammer
10. S Chandrasekhar
11. Sanjeev Bisht
12. Nishesh Shah
13. K K Menon
14. Abhishek Poddar

## Advisory Board

Phillip Kuruvilla

MSA Kumar

Gulshan John

Chairman Emeritus M L Parekh



## International Spice Conference 2021 (virtual)

**As you all know that due to the global pandemic, we could not conduct ISC 2020 and we conducted ISC 2021 as a virtual event which started on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021 and concluded on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

**We had 225 overseas delegates and 340 Indian delegates participating in the virtual event.**



## Government interactions & activities during the year:

### 1. FSSAI Session with Chairperson Ms. Rita Teotia IAS

We had a fruitful Session with the FSSAI Chairperson with more than 300 participants from the Spice Industry. The session was addressed by eminent speakers and senior officials from FSSAI, Ministry of Agriculture and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR). Issues regarding quality standards and regulations were discussed and the industry highlighted what was required to make Indian spices food safe and capable of meeting quality specifications laid down for both domestic and international markets.



## 2. ETO residue project, Data of Heavy Metal Residues and Chlorpyrifos

- When the ETO residue issue was informed by the EU, a core group was formed with Managers from the Quality Department from Members' companies and they are continuing in-depth study for this occurrence. The first set of data was given to Spices Board during an Interaction meeting with DG Sante Officials from EU.
- The European Union has established new MRLs for heavy metals in spices. According to the data available with us, only a few turmeric samples have detections of lead above the new MRLs established by EU. Codex has also proposed establishing some new MRLs and has called for more data submission. Spices Board has requested WSO to share the data available with us so that it can be submitted to Codex in the required format. We will be sharing the data available with WSO with Spices Board.
- As USA has decided to ban the use of Chlorpyrifos, the chances of any increase in the tolerance limits seem highly unlikely. We have met Secretary Spices Board and they have advised we make an official letter regarding this to Spices Board and share the data collected by us with the Board so that they can work on it further to modify the Indian regulations to suit the international demands. This is time bound and data needs to be submitted by 10 October.
- This project is being handled by our technical arm WSO.



### **3. ASTA Check Sample Programme:**

Due to the MIP introduced for import of pepper, members who are taking part in ASTA check sample programme are finding it extremely difficult to import samples from ASTA. This issue has been taken up with DGFT and Spices Board for recommending GOI to allow free import of samples.

### **4. FSSAI – Import Regulations for import of spices:**

FSSAI has started checking sample of imports which has badly affected exporters under advance authorization and EoU. AISEF has taken up the matter with concerned departments.





## 5. High Freight rates

Even though spice exports have increased, the recent high freight rates has hit our profits badly. We have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Commerce through Spices Board. A virtual interaction also took place with the Ministry of Shipping.

## 6. Notices received from Bio Diversity Board

A few members have got notices from National and State Bio Diversity Boards in various states. We had an interaction meeting with the Secretary of National Bio Diversity Board. Some of the doubts were clarified but there are a lot of issues that still require clarification and clarity.

As suggested by NBA we are in the process of framing questions for clarification which will be FAQ's of the Spice Industry.



## 7. CII Kerala Spice Conference

Chairman AISEF has been empanelled into the CII Kerala Spice Panel and designated as the Chairman of the Spice panel. Under this panel CII organised a “Kerala Spice Conference” which was then merged with the GOI’s Vanijya Utsav at the request of Spices Board, celebrating India’s 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence. The theme of the conference was INDIA AS THE RISING ECONOMIC FORCE – FOCUS – KERALA”. This was spread over 2 days earlier this week and the event was well received.



## Other issues taken up with GOI

- Suggestions for Exim policy were given to CII, FIEO and FICCI.
- Non-issue of MEIS for the period April 2020 to December 2020 was taken up.
- Demand of higher rate for RoDTEP has been taken up.
- Non availability of containers was taken up.



## **Our technical arm World Spice Organisation ( WSO)**

**Our technical arm WSO is doing a very commendable job by looking into technical issues of the spice industry and also providing training to farmers \_ FPO's under NSSP.**

**To get funds from overseas, WSO needs to apply for FCRA and to qualify for FCRA they need to execute projects worth more than 15 lakhs in last 3 years. AISEF provided a sum of Rs. 10 Lakhs to WSO to execute projects and this has enabled them to qualify for FCRA.**



# National Sustainable Spice Programme

After the successful launch of NSSP at various states, training could not be started due to the impact of global pandemic.

However, by January 2021 training programmes have started at spice growing areas for chilli and Turmeric. Next phase of training will start for cumin and coriander.



Update on our dream project **AISEF Training Centre** will be given by our Executive Director, Col. Deric Sebastian

