

Technology sharing of spice crops in SAARC Countries (Regional Expert Consultation Meeting)

1. Introduction

Agriculture has played a central role in the economies of South Asian countries. Over two-thirds of the population still depends on it for a living, and it accounts for nearly one-third of the region's exports. Such major problems as food shortages, rural unemployment, and social, economic and political discontent are directly related to the agricultural systems. In statistical terms, the region occupies a major position in the world in several agricultural commodities including with spice crops.

Spices are important essential condiments in the SAARC countries. There are many spice crops commonly grown in the region. Among the crops, onion, garlic, ginger, chillies, turmeric, coriander, cumin, cardamom, cinnamon, black pepper etc. are more important. The total demands of these spices are increasing among the SAARC countries as well as outside the SAARC countries. Among the SAARC Countries, India holds an important position in the production of such commercial crops as spices, bananas, tobacco, oil seeds, and cotton. Significant progresses in Research and Development on these crops have been made by SAARC member countries. In addition to domestic consumption, these crops also have high export potential. Sharing of production and post-harvest technologies are important for development, improvement and marketing of these crops. Thus documentation of production and post-harvest handling, processing and storage of spices would be mutually beneficial to each member country. Considering these aforementioned facts, three days Regional Expert Consultation Meeting for Technology sharing of spice crops in SAARC Countries with following objectives are to be scheduled as follows.

2. Objectives

1. Sharing of information on production technology, post-harvest handling, processing, value addition and storage of spices for mutual benefit of SAARC Member Countries.
2. Key policy input for deploying strategies aimed at strengthening of spice value chains and enhancing international trade.
3. To document and collate key developments and strategies in the member states for benefitting spice crop economy in south Asia.

3. Methodology

The country document on production, post harvest technologies and marketing of major spices of eight SAARC countries will be prepared based on the information provided by the respective focal points (resource persons). The final document will be reviewed by a technical editor appointed by the centre before publishing.

4. Expected outputs

1. Publication on commonly grown Spices crops and providing policy input for Research, Agro-industry, agribusiness and trade.
2. Explore intra and inter regional spice trade and value chain development strategy among the SAARC Countries.
3. Recommendation of value chain development technology and cross border issues of spice crops and way forward for the future strategies.

5. Target Participants: 20

- 8 experts of spice crops (1 each from 8 SAARC MSs- Ministry of Agricultural Development, NARS systems)- coordinated by SAC
- 5 from India (ICAR, IIRS, MoA and DoA)
- 5 from Potential Private sectors and development partner agencies (including potential NGO, Business organization and processing company)
- 2 from SAARC Agriculture Centre

6. Venue: Indian Institute of Spice Research (IISR), Kerala, India

7. Date: 11 to 13 September 2017

Outline for the Country Report/Presentation:

Title: Value chain development technology practices of spice crop (Cardamom (small and large), Ginger, Turmeric, Black pepper, and cinnamon) research and development in _____
(Respective SAARC countries)

1. Introduction
2. Agricultural land use
3. Area and Production status of commonly use Spice crops (Cardamom (small and large), Ginger, Turmeric, Black pepper, and cinnamon).
4. Production technology, post-harvest handling, processing, value addition and storage of spices
5. Spices Trade in SAARC Countries and beyond the SAARC (intra and inter regional trade).
6. Key policy input for deploying strategies aimed at strengthening of spice value chain and enhancing international trade.
7. Key developments and strategies for benefitting spice crop economy in respective country and south Asia.
8. Challenges and Way forward for research and value chain development of South Asia.
9. Conclusion
10. References

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