

News from the World Of Spices

Jul Aug Sep 2018



From Chairman's desk:

Dear Members,

The Training of Trainers (TOT) programme in Chilli which I had referred to in my message in the last Newsletter was conducted in July and it was well received by the technical personnel and field staff who are involved in the respective IPM programmes of their companies.

The report made by Dr Venugopal who conducted the Training session is featured in this Newsletter.

The feedback we received from the attendees was quite positive and we are looking forward to conducting the next TOT programme this time for Cumin in November.

WSO along with AISEF will also be holding a Chilli Farmers Meet in Warangal which is a major growing area for this spice and where many of our members operate. The Farmers Meet is basically meant to acquaint the farmers with the latest quality requirements of the global markets and to create an awareness of food safety issues like pesticide residues , aflatoxin etc . amongst the farming community.

November will be a busy month for the Spice Industry with the IPC - AISEF Pepper App being launched which will benefit the trade especially pepper farmers . Another important event in which WSO will be participating in as a partner which will be the project on " Biodiversity of Spice crops in the Western Ghats " which is being championed by M/S GIZ Germany . You may be aware that GIZ has been deeply involved in Biodiversity projects on a global basis for a number of commodity sectors and have come to India to work with us on an important subject which will have a great impact on our lives.

Watch for the full report on the App and the Biodiversity project in our next Newsletter.

Report on the Training of Trainers (TOT) held on 31st July 2018 at Khammam

TOT on IPM	Training content
<p>A Training of Trainers Programme on Integrated Pest management: Strategies and Techniques for Chilly for the agricultural extension officers and executives of the WSO members was conducted at the Hotel S Park, Khammam on 31st July 2018.</p> <p>This one day training program was conducted by Dr. KJ Venugopal, Head of Technical Committee, WSO.</p> <p>The training session started with an introduction to GAP and IPM, and was subsequently followed by various IPM methods, IPM practices, management of IPM project, sustainability parameters and relationship between Sustainability and IPM. Detailed elaborations on MRLs, dosage, PHI, risk based spray schedules, alternate chemicals, bio pesticides and bio control agents were also done.</p> <p>Aspects of IPM project management, field monitoring and data collection, education to farmers, risk based farmer and village grouping was deal with in later part of the program. The training session ended with interactive sessions, sharing of experiences and knowledge, and Q&A.</p> <p>WSO chairman, Mr. Ram Kumar Menon, and the AISEF /ISC ED Col (Retd) Deric introduced the importance of regulatory compliance and its challenges and introduced the speaker to the trainees. There were 35 attendees to the program and the sessions were lively and productive.</p>	<p>Dr. Venugopal started the training session with an introduction on the IPM and sustainable practices, and the relevance and challenges of regulatory compliance in the export market.</p> <p>A brief introduction to red pepper and its morphological classifications were then given. Quality issues in the red pepper supply chain such as contaminants/hazards from different sources (physical, chemical, biological, radiological) were highlighted. Challenges in the agricultural sector such as diminishing land holding, primitive farming practices and lack of knowledge and seriousness about usage of agrochemicals were discussed.</p> <p>The most challenging aspect of chilly agriculture, ie. Pesticide residue was then handled in detail. As per the statistics India uses close to 80,000MT pesticides annually. Of the registered plant protection chemicals in India, 72% are insecticides, 21% are fungicides, and 3% are weedicide.</p> <p>MRLs (maximum residue limits) are maximum allowable concentration of pesticide residues in food products. The establishment of MRLs ensure that pesticide residues in food do not cause an unacceptable risk for consumers. The MRLs are derived by scientific methods based on clinical data on cellular toxicity of a chemical, and average daily intake of the commodity by a population. All food intended for consumption are subject to regulatory MRLs as per country regulations. Exporters must be aware of the regulatory limits of each molecule that are used in agriculture and at what dosage they have to be used. It is also important to understand whether there are MRLs for the pesticides you use on your products.</p>

Dr. Venu elaborated on sustainable agricultural production and its importance for environmental, social and economic protection. The sustainable practices are different from the process of conventional systems in that they are multifunctional within region and economies. Utilization of crop varieties with a high productivity to input ratio, need based external inputs ,agro ecological processes in nutrient cycling, botanical nitrogen fixation, allelopathy effects, predation, parasitism, technologies and practices impacting environment and health, productive use of human capital are key areas of sustainable practices.

Detailed discussion on integrated pest management followed the above sessions. Definition of IPM by FAO as the “ pest management system that, in the context of the associated environment and population dynamics of the pest species, utilizes all suitable techniques and methods in as compatible a manner as possible and maintains the pest population at the levels below those causing economic injury” was explained. The advantages of judicious use of agrochemicals and multifaceted, environmental friendly and safe methods were discussed in detail. These techniques help to improve saving, improves public health, improves natural capital, overall improvement in agricultural sustainability. The IPM components such as cultural practices, mechanical practices, genetic practices, regulatory/quarantine practices, biological practices and chemical practices were explained.

Challenges of IPM as a suitable crop protection system, gained momentum after world war 2 by aiming to reduce indiscriminate use of insecticides. Substantial increase in understanding on how to increase farmers’ knowledge to cultivate and rise crops by using less/no pesticides has been seen all over the years in the late 70s and 80s of the previous century. However, its adoption is still low, and has not yet led to a reduction in total pesticide use.

New invasive pest species and diseases appear due to transfer of species in a globalised world. Changes in climate and weather patterns have driven shifts in pest and pathogen ranges. Policy and implementation challenges in the third world countries were discussed.

Various IPM approaches such as targeted use of pesticides, changed use of pesticides, habitat approach, and agro ecosystem analysis were explained in detailed. This session witnessed a lot of interaction between the participants, and the trainer ensured that the concept was well understood by all.

AESA (Agro eco system analysis) and its implementation at field level is still a challenge for socio, economic, regulatory compliance reasons, and challenges in the supportive and enabling policies and institutions. Bio intensive IPM is the most comprehensive method of AESA and it supports sustainable principles which are fairly new to pest management. The AESA is based on understanding of pest biology and ecology, accurate diagnosis of nature and source of pests, application of preventive tactics and biological controls, need based and last resort use of pesticides, use of pesticides with lower environmental and health impact and reduced input costs, reduced environmental impacts and more effective and sustainable pest management.

Outcomes of training : On interaction with the participants WSO understands that it was effective in gaining advanced knowledge in red pepper, good agriculture practices and good post-harvest practices and its supply chain management. Apart from these, the participants gained insights on sustainable agriculture, integrated pest management and agriculture ecosystem analysis and how to manage IPM projects in chilly.

Note: Full report is being mailed to all members

Quality rules in India: Trade, technical regulations and consumer protection

India's competitiveness in manufacturing and the success of 'Make in India' depend on its ability to produce high-quality products and services. Product quality is important for human health and consumer safety, as well as for protecting the climate and the environment. One way of ensuring that products and services meet certain standards is through technical regulations with mandatory compliance. However, technical regulations also have the potential to impede the cross-border flow of goods and services if they become barriers to trade. Until recently, India had few technical regulations, but it is now set to change this. This brief analyses sectoral patterns and trends in India's technical regulations by looking at mandatory certification schemes and notifications to the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee of the World Trade Organisation. Four measures are identified, which could support goals such as consumer protection while also improving India's competitiveness and its integration into international trade.

Introduction : Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was applauded at the 2018 World Economic Forum for speaking in favour of globalisation and publicly positioning himself against protectionism. Yet, tariff rates were increased on a range of products in the 2018–19 public budget, creating a concern that Indian policy did not echo Modi's words in Davos.

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Promotion of food processing in agriculture

Agriculture forms the backbone of the Indian economy. Although there has been large industrialization in the last 60 years, agriculture still occupies the prominent place of importance. Agriculture has provided us the food security but so far it has failed to provide us the nutritional security. Value addition is the process in which for the same volume of a primary product, a higher price is realised by means of processing, packing, upgrading the quality or other such means. Value addition is one of the important components of nutritional security. Sometimes farmers get less price of a particular farm produce due to its surplus production. This problem can be solved by the crop diversification which creates an opportunity to earn more money from the different crops produce. Crop diversification and value addition are the two techniques for the profit maximization and nutritional security. The most important problem now-a-days is to provide the remunerative price to the farmers for their farm produce. This problem can be solved by the value addition in different crops produce and can be marketed both inside and outside the country. This can also generate more employment for the rural people. Value added agriculture helps to increase the value of primary agricultural commodities through a particular production process. Small scale processing units, organic food processing, additional crops production, agri-tourism and bio-fuels development are examples of various value-added projects that have supported to create new jobs in the rural areas.

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Global Precision Farming Equipment Market by Technology, Growth, Economic Impact, Application & Geography - Analysis & Forecast to 2023

This Research Provides an in-depth analysis of Global Precision Farming Equipment Market By 2023. The Research profiles companies like John Deere, Trimble, Raven Industries, Precision Planting, Agco Corporation, AG Leader Technology, Dickey-John Corporation, Raven Industries Inc, Teejet Technologies, Topcon Precision Agriculture, Trimble Navigation Limited, Spraying Systems Co

This press release was originally distributed by [SBWire](#)

Houston, TX -- ([SBWIRE](#)) -- 07/05/2018 -- Research N Reports has recently proclaimed the addition of a new research report to its expanding repository. The research report, titled "Global Precision Farming Equipment Market By Technology, Application & Geography - Analysis & Forecast To 2023," offers a clear understanding of the subject matter. The report provides detailed information regarding the performance of the gem

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Toxic Chinese cinnamon flooding South Indian market, finds study



Chances are the cinnamon bark you picked up from the shelf is a toxic version of the spice imported from China and passed off as the original.

The cinnamon you just bought from the local grocery to spice up your dish may not be what the doctor ordered. Chances are the cinnamon bark you picked up from the shelf is a toxic version of the spice imported from China and passed off as the original. A study conducted by scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) here has revealed that South Indian market is flooded with Chinese cinnamon (*Cinnamomum cassia*) containing high levels of coumarin, a hepatotoxic compound, raising food safety concerns.

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Author C Rahim's eighth novel 'Kurumulakinte Veedu' traces the role pepper played in Indian history

The novel opens at a stage in Kerala history where the Dutch have wrested a brute monopoly on the pepper trade.

C Rahim has many 'pepper memories' from his childhood. But there's one that stands out: Children sprinkling the fruiting spikes (kurumulaku konthu) in the streets around their homes once the peppercorns were removed. "It was a popular custom that went back centuries.

The whole region would reek of pepper, can you imagine! But, till recently, I didn't know why it was done," he says. So why was it done? To simply let the world know that pepper has been harvested! "In the old days, black pepper commanded more respect than gold," says the writer and journalist, whose latest novel 'Kurumulakinte Veedu' (Green Books - Rs 235) traces the role played by pepper in shaping Indian history by blending fictional elements with actual historical events. "Perhaps there is no other plant that has influenced Indian history as much as the pepper vine. It drew the world to Indian shores," says Rahim. [Read More](#)

App for pepper farmers to monitor global market

Pepper farmers will be able to adopt the best cultivation practices at their fingertips with the launch of the International Pepper Community (IPC) Farmers App.

The app will enable them to monitor the latest news in the global pepper market and monitor prices.

Indonesia, one of the world's top pepper producers, would be the first IPC member country to launch the Farmers App in Bangka on July 19, followed by India in August.

The app is one of the initiatives from last year's IPC conference.

"Farmers will be guided everyday as to what activities he/she should be undertaking in his/her pepper farm.

"The app will make it easy for farmers to identify the pest or disease affecting his/her field and take control measures accordingly.

"Any changes in recommendation or technology is updated in real-time to the farmer's mobile phone. Without any outside assistance, the farmer will be able to adopt the best practices for his farm," said IPC in its latest report.

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Ingredients lists are powerful purchasing motivators': Study finds consumer care more about ingredients than brand

Fresh consumer research demonstrates the ongoing importance of the clean label trend and suggests that the ingredients list trumps both the brand and product description in motivating purchase.

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Common food safety mistakes to avoid

How would you rank your family for following good food safety practices in the kitchen?

Have you ever seen someone preparing raw poultry and then immediately touch lettuce without washing their hands? Or not checking to see if a burger has reached the proper temperature with a food thermometer?

Most of us think we never make food safety mistakes while cooking. However, there are probably things we all do that might increase our risk for becoming ill.

One in six Americans will get sick from food poisoning this year. Most of them will recover without any lasting effects from their illness. For some, however, the effects can be devastating. Serious long-term effects linked with several common types of food poisoning include kidney failure, chronic arthritis, brain and nerve damage, and death.

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Food insecurity remains a real threat to global development

Could the future of food in the world depend on what Africa does with agriculture?

Addressing a standing room only crowd of global agriculture experts at the FAO headquarters in Rome, 2017 World Food Prize Laureate and President of the African Development Bank, Akinwumi Adesina, says the answer is a resounding yes.

He believes Africa does not need aid but disciplined investments. According to this grandson of a subsistence farmer, he says the time has come to view investment and development opportunities in Africa through a totally different lens.

With over 800 million people worldwide suffering from hunger and more than two billion affected by malnutrition, food insecurity remains a real threat to global development.

Adesina, who is making a global pitch for renewed visionary leadership and strategic alliances, "the future of food in the world will depend on what Africa does with Agriculture."

The African Development Bank, which he leads, envisions a food secure continent which uses advanced technologies, creatively adapts to climate change, and develops a whole new generation of what he describes as agripreneurs, empowered youth and women who he expects to take agriculture to the next level.

By 2050, an additional 38 million African will be hungry. The paradox of lack in the midst of plenty, and Africa's growing youth bulge are some of the reasons why Adesina's sense of urgency is resonating with numerous government, private sector, and multilateral leaders during recent European and Asian trips. The banker and 2017 World Food Prize Laureate will be the first to admit that he considers himself the 'evangelist-in-chief' for a food secure Africa. [Read More](#)

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety: Choosing Slow Food is a Choice of Ethics and Sustainability

“Terra Madre is asking us to preserve the Planet. Choosing between Fast Food and Slow Food is our choice, it is a choice of ethics and sustainability,” said European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis at the opening ceremony of the 12th edition of Terra Madre Salone del Gusto. During the first day of the event, the commissioner addressed issues concerning food waste and the use of antibiotics in farms, and engaged in a dialogue with citizens. Terra Madre Salone del Gusto was opened on September 20, in Turin, Italy, and will continue until September 24.

“Food waste is a 21st century scandal,” said Mr Andriukaitis at the thematic forum [Fighting Food Waste with intelligence and creativity](#). The fact that European consumers waste between 95 and 115 kg of food per year, while millions go to bed hungry, is “unacceptable”.

Mr Andriukaitis stressed the importance of enabling consumers to change their behavior when it comes to food waste. “We need creative alternatives, accessible solutions, relevant to reality,” said the Commissioner,

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Enabling food safety research: New Singapore centre seeks food industry applicants

Waters-sponsored International Food and Water Research Centre (IFWRC) has opened its doors to applicants from food companies and other scientists with food and water safety-related projects.

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World first: Nestle leads food companies in using satellite service to monitor palm oil supply

Nestle has become the first food company worldwide to execute the use of the satellite-based Starling service to monitor all of its palm oil supply chains globally.

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