

Press release

Kochi: 17 Sept 2012: Spices Board and CII-FACE join hands with JIFSAN, USA to strengthen Supply Chain of Spices and Botanical Ingredients

CII-FACE and Spices Board have joined hands to establish a Collaborative training Centre for Food Safety and Supply Chain Management in Spices and Botanical ingredients with JIFSAN, USA as the Knowledge partner. This first mover initiative is aimed at strengthening the supply chain management of spices and botanical ingredients for both Domestic and International trade.

The Tripartite MOA was signed by CII-FACE, Spices Board and JIFSAN (The Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition between University of Maryland and U.S. Food and Drug Administration) at the Inaugural Ceremony of the Centre on 17 September 2012 at Kochi. The Bipartite MOU was also exchanged between CII-FACE and Spices Board for formalising the setup of the Collaborative Centre of Training.

Inaugurating the collaborative training centre, Dr A. Jayathilak, Chairman, Spices Board, said that the Centre, the first of its kind in India, is the culmination of the decision taken in the aftermath of the World Spice Congress held in Pune in February this year. He mentioned that the workshop is aimed at sharing product specific testing procedures, manufacturing, processing facilities, Quality assurance system, implementing hygiene and food safety management system, which are the need of the hour for further strengthening this promising and high potential sector in the area of exports.

The Centre endeavors to build capacity for providing affordable technical assistance to the Indian Spices and Botanical ingredients industry by developing a pool of human resources and leveraging technology and innovation to improve productivity and the environmental footprint in the sector. Various stakeholders in the supply chain will be provided with training and consultancy skills to build their capabilities and disseminate the learnings to the Indian industry at affordable cost, for becoming globally competitive.

The Centre assumes importance in the context of most countries, especially the US and EU, bringing in stringent legislations regarding the standards of spices imported to their respective countries. This will give producing countries like India, an edge over the other competitors on the export front.

Mr MSA Kumar, Past Chairman, CII Kerela, in his Welcome Remarks explained that following this Phase 1 program, the Phase 2 program would comprise the Train the Trainer program in USA, a two week long training in University of Maryland and University of Mississippi with Industry visits for observing best in class practices. In phase three, participants attending phase two would be involved in a series of workshop and training programmes in different regions of India.

Dr Indrani Ghose, Principal Counsellor, CII-FACE mentioned that this first mover initiative between CII-FACE, Spices Board and JIFSAN would help the Spices and Botanical Sector become globally competitive through modules for shared learning of world class and innovative agricultural and processing practices and adapting these to the Indian environment.

Dr James Rushing, Manager International Training JIFSAN, applauded the organisers CII FACE and Spices Board for bringing together relevant stakeholders from both Government and Non Government organizations for effective interaction and participation in the Workshop.

The Inaugural Ceremony was followed by the launch of the first phase Training program of the Centre which was a 5 day Workshop conducted by overseas faculty from JIFSAN, USFDA, University of Mississippi, University of Maryland and those from GS1, Kerela Agriculture University and CII-FACE. Supplemented with Field and Industry visits for the delegates and faculty members, the program is running to its full capacity and is being attended by over 60 officials and functionaries from 50 organisations from both the Government and non government sector consisting of Training Institutes, Commodity boards, Processors, Trader, Exporters, Certification bodies and Industry associations.