



APRIL 2019 NEWSLETTER
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Industry Updates

The year for SSI-I started on a high note with industry engagement at the International Spice Conference in Hyderabad. As a long-term partner for the event, SSI has been actively participating to increase awareness about sustainability needs in the sector among the stakeholders. SSI chair Alphons van Gulick made a presentation on 'Balancing People, Planet and Profits' and Jan Gilhuis, Senior program manager at IDH, participated in a panel discussion on 'Challenges of Sustainability'.

We continue to work towards strengthening SSI-I's market offerings. Over the last quarter, we established market linkages with our Implementing Partners - STAC, PRDIS and Azad Agro, in addition to our existing work with Gram Unnati. We are very happy to share that STAC has started its own processing unit for turmeric and launched a brand - 'Vedik Farm'.

From the project side, SSI-I's chili project in Bellary, being implemented by Deshpande Foundation, has reached out to an increased number of farmers to train them on sustainable agricultural practices for chili. Over the last months, the farmers were trained on implementing farm ponds for improved water management at their fields. Decreasing their vulnerability to climatic conditions, the farm ponds would help the farmers with reliable and long-term water supply by storing rain water.

SSI-I has released a handbook - **Sustainable Agricultural Practices for Spices**. Developed in collaboration with Indian Institute of Spices Research, the handbook lays down package of practices for sustainable production of chili, turmeric, cumin and coriander.

We are happy to share the details our activities in the newsletter, along with key industry updates, and hope you enjoy reading it.

SSI participates at International Spice Conference

Sustainable Spices Initiative (SSI) participated in the International Spice Conference in Hyderabad from January 28 to 31, 2019. The event provided a platform for the industry stakeholders to discuss key challenges in the sector and possible solutions, while ensuring the sustainability of the crops and improving the livelihood of the farmers.

- SSI Chairman and CEO Nedspice, Alphons van Gulick, made a presentation on 'Balancing People, Planet and Profits'. Calling out a need for sector transformation, he discussed how to benchmark sustainability, what it means for a company's future and the need for sustainability in the spices sector. He discussed the potential issues targeted by SSI, including overuse of agrochemicals, living wage, gender equality, labor issues, and climate resilience, among others, and solutions through creating a common agenda, knowledge sharing and building commitment.
- Jan Gilhuis, Senior program manager at IDH, also represented SSI at the event and participated in a panel discussion on 'Challenges of Sustainability'.
- Sustainable Spices Initiative - India (SSI-I) released a brochure at the event to create awareness about the program among the event participants.



SSI-I releases handbook on Sustainable Agricultural Practices for Spices



SUSTAINABLE SPICES
INITIATIVE-INDIA



Sustainable Agricultural Practices for Spices

India is the largest producer and consumer of spices in the world today. However, the scope of agrarian production in India, positions sustainability as an immediate and fundamental topic demanding attention on account of non-discriminatory use of agrochemicals, farmer livelihood, labor issues and health & safety.

To address these challenges, SSI-I has designed Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAP) handbook, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Spice Research (IISR), that lays down a package of practices for sustainable spices production.

The handbook has five core components, which considers food safety, good agricultural practices, farmer livelihood, and social development of farming community:

- Food safety
- Community development and well-being
- Optimum available resources management
- Proactive farming systems
- Value addition activities

Download publication [here](#).

Market linkages for sustainable spice procurement

- **Gram Unnati:** Gram Unnati is a social enterprise providing service delivery support to the SSI-I program. They aggregate and supply quality products - **Chili, Coriander, Turmeric & Cumin** - as per buyer's quality requirements and specifications.
- **Sustainable Textile and Agriculture Commodity (STAC):** STAC is implementing **SSI-I turmeric project** in Kandamal, Odisha. Having trained over 12,000 farmers over last three years under the project, they have certified organic turmeric to offer. They have started their own processing unit and launched '**Vedik Farm**' - as a brand of Organic turmeric from the region.
- **Azad Agro:** Azad Agro is implementing a **SSI-I coriander project** in Kota, Rajasthan and has trained over 10,000 coriander farmers in the region. They have been able to establish market linkages for quality, food safe coriander to several global market players.

In the last three months, Deshpande Foundation has worked with 1693 farmers, to train them on sustainable agricultural practices for chili. In the project, the focus is on intensifying extension work within the existing village, before expanding to additional villages in the area.

Trainings

A total of three trainings were provided to the farmers on sustainable agriculture practices for chili and making and using farm ponds.

Farm pond trainings: For effective water management, the participating farmers were made aware on the benefits of farm ponds. The farmers were informed on the optimum size of the pond, along with its cost and benefits to the group. Farm Ponds provides critical life-saving water to irrigate rain-fed lands and significantly improves farmer's income by creating additional livelihood opportunities. Harvesting rain-water is an environmentally sustainable way of improving rain-fed agricultural productivity, while adapting to climate change. It helps them to have them choice of growing extra crop.

SAP trainings: The farmers were made aware on the banned pesticides and taking necessary precaution while spraying other pesticides.



Farmer Group SAP training



Data collection and awareness meeting



Sample farm pond



Chili grading

AISEF calls for registration of spice importers under Spices Board

The All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF) has called for registration of all spices importers under Spices Board. The forum has mentioned that by doing so it is looking at preventing illegal import of black pepper, which is being sold in the Indian markets. Read more [here](#).

Credit: Economic Times

Codex Committee to draft standards for variety of spices

The Codex committee on spices and culinary herbs is looking at developing harmonized standards for a variety of spices for global trade, including turmeric and chili. Read more [here](#).

Credit: Economic Times

India to maintain lead in spices this year

India is expected to maintain its lead in the global spices market with forecast of good crop for most of the spices, including chili, cumin and turmeric. Read more [here](#).

Credit: Economic Times

Organic Spices Market to grow at 7.85% CAGR

As per an industry research report, organic spices market is expected to grow at CAGR of 7.85% till 2023. Read more [here](#).

Credit: The Paramount Daily

Commerce Minister inaugurates spices parks in Rajasthan, UP

Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated two spices parks in Kota, Rajasthan and Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. The Minister said that establishment of spices parks is a major initiative of the Ministry of Commerce to help farmers to get better returns for their produce and to ensure the quality of spices for exports. The elimination of intermediaries in the supply chain due to direct linkages facilitated by the parks will ensure better prices for the farmers informed by the Minister. Read more [here](#).

Credit: PIB