

## **EXPORT ORIENTED PRODUCTION AND POST-HARVEST IMPROVEMENT**

### **OF SPICES**

Spices Board is responsible for the overall development of cardamom (Small & Large) in terms of improving production, productivity and quality. The Board is also implementing post-harvest improvement programmes for production of quality spices for export. The various development programmes and post-harvest quality improvement programmes of the Board are included under the Head "Export Oriented Production".

Export Oriented Production is broadly divided into

- Production improvement programmes meant for Cardamom (Small & Large).
- Post-Harvest improvement as a part of quality improvement of spices for export.
- Extension support for both the above programmes.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

- 1) Board gives wide publicity about the programmes among the farming community through its field network, Boards website and through the media.
- 2) Applications along with requisite copies of documents are received in Field Offices across the major spice growing regions of the country and the applications will be scrutinised for eligibility, whether availed subsidy from Board earlier, etc.
- 3) Field Officers carry out preliminary field inspections and will forward the cases to Assistant Director for issue of permit order in schemes where purchase / construction is involved.
- 4) The Field Officers conduct final inspection after planting / installation / construction as the case may be and make recommendation. Then the application and inspection report are entered in online FOA system and forwarded to Divisional Asst. Director for payment.
- 5) The Divisional Assistant Directors (AD) carry out test checking of a certain percentage as specified, in the scheme depending on schemes and will sanction the subsidy within the delegated powers given. Other cases will be forwarded to Regional office for sanction.
- 6) The Regional Dy. Directors (DD) test check a percentage of cases and sanction the eligible cases within the delegated powers. Other cases will be recommended to HO for sanction by Director.
- 7) The sanctioned cases by AD / DD/Director will be sent online to Account Section for arranging payment to the applicant's accounts through online.

Field Office Automation (FOA) Software is used for processing of all applications which includes forwarding, recommendation and sanction and finally E-payment is made to the farmers' account. The system is very transparent and speeds up the payment process. In the case of Extension Support and training programmes, the Board conduct regular field visits to farmer's field and organises group meeting, trainings, demonstrations etc.

## EXPORT ORIENTED PRODUCTION

### A) SMALL CARDAMOM

The main objective of this programme is to produce exportable surplus of Cardamom as per the quality specifications of the importing countries. The programmes are therefore formulated for production & productivity increase, sustainability and quality improvement for exports. The details of the schemes are given below:

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance												
<b>Planting material production</b>	Availability of good quality planting materials of improved varieties/cultivars for replanting/rejuvenation is the key to improve the productivity of cardamom. High yielding and disease free planting materials are to be made available to facilitate replanting. Subsidy @ Rs. 2/- sucker and seedling for a maximum 10,000 suckers in Karnataka and Rs.2.50 per sucker in Kerala & Tamil Nadu is offered to the growers.												
<b>Replantation</b>	<p>Presence of old and senile plantations is the prime reason for low productivity in cardamom. The programme is aimed at replanting the old, diseased and uneconomic plantations.</p> <p>For 0-8 ha. Rs 70000/ha. is given as subsidy in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and Rs.50,000/ha. in Karnataka towards 33.33% of the cost of replanting and maintenance during gestation period. The subsidy is paid in two equal annual instalments after inspection.</p>												
<b>Improved Cardamom Curing Devices</b>	Since traditional curing results in low quality produce, Board is popularising curing machines using fuels, viz., Diesel, LP Gas and energy from biomass which gives cardamom better colour and cost effective drying and also fetches premium price. Subsidy @ 33.33% of the actual cost subject to a maximum of Rs.1, 00,000/- per device.												
<b>Irrigation and Land Development Programme</b>	<p>Severe drought during the summer months <i>i.e.</i>, from February extending up to May will affect the formation of panicle and thereby the productivity. This programme helps to provide the needy irrigation during the summer months &amp; soil conservation in cardamom plantations.</p> <p>Subsidy @ 25- 50% of cost based on activity component as given below:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Name of the Component</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Subsidy Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Construction of Irrigation Devices</td> <td>50% of the actual cost or Rs.20000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gravity irrigation</td> <td>25% of actual cost or Rs.2500/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrigation pump set</td> <td>25% of actual cost or Rs.10000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sprinkler/drip/micro irrigation</td> <td>25% of actual cost or Rs.21175/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rain water harvesting</td> <td>33.33% of the actual cost or Rs.12000/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of the Component	Subsidy Amount	Construction of Irrigation Devices	50% of the actual cost or Rs.20000/- whichever is less	Gravity irrigation	25% of actual cost or Rs.2500/- whichever is less	Irrigation pump set	25% of actual cost or Rs.10000/- whichever is less	Sprinkler/drip/micro irrigation	25% of actual cost or Rs.21175/- whichever is less	Rain water harvesting	33.33% of the actual cost or Rs.12000/-
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	Soil conservation	25% of the actual cost or Rs.25000/- whichever is less												
<b>Supply of GAP Kits</b>	Cardamom needs intensive care and constant attention to prevent occurrence of pests and diseases. Indiscriminate use of pesticides, due to lack of awareness has resulted in pesticide residues in the end product. The Board therefore supply organic substitutes/nutrients to farmers to take up prophylactic/control measures in cardamom. The organic materials and copper sulphate is supplied to farmers at 50% subsidy, subject to a maximum of Rs.2500/- per ha.													
<b>Supply of Bee-keeping boxes</b>	Honeybees play an important role in pollination of cardamom flowers. By promoting bee keeping in cardamom plantations, productivity can be increased and also this will give an additional income to farmers. Board is providing assistance for five bee boxes per hectare at 50% subsidy, limited to Rs.1880/- per box.													
<b>Mechanisation</b>	<p>About 68% of the cost of cultivation incurred per hectare in cardamom is accounted for the labour. Timely unavailability of labour cripples the cardamom sector leading to both plant loss as well as crop loss. The best initiative by which the labour cost and thereby the total production cost can be brought down is by introducing mechanization wherever possible. Cultural practices like pit making, weeding, plant protection etc. requires timely labour. Cleaning of the harvested produce, it's grading and polishing fetches a premium price for the farmer.</p> <p>In order to assist the farmers to help them to take up timely cultural operations and to reduce the production cost, Board is assisting farmers in procuring pit makers, weed cutters, plant protection equipments, washing equipments, graders/sieves and polishers at 50% of the cost as subsidy as given below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of equipment</th> <th>Scale of Assistance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Weed cutter/pit maker</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.15000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plant protection equipments</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.5000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Washing equipment</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.15000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grading machine</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.35000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Polisher</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.7000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Type of equipment	Scale of Assistance	Weed cutter/pit maker	50% cost or Rs.15000/- whichever is less	Plant protection equipments	50% cost or Rs.5000/- whichever is less	Washing equipment	50% cost or Rs.15000/- whichever is less	Grading machine	50% cost or Rs.35000/- whichever is less	Polisher	50% cost or Rs.7000/- whichever is less
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### Method of operation/ Modus operandi

Interested growers will submit application in the prescribed format to the nearest office of Spices Board along with the following documents.

- Current year tax receipt /Chitta adangal/RTC

- CR/ACR/CRC endorsement
- ID Proof (Voter ID card)
- Copy of Bank Pass book
- Survey plan issued by V.O/registered surveyor for replanting
- Plan and estimate in case of constructions and quotations in case of purchase of machines

The Spices Board official will inspect each application and recommend eligible subsidy to the Divisional Assistant Director/ Deputy Director, Regional office for sanction through Field Office Automation Software. Sanctioned cases will be forwarded to Head office and the subsidy will be credited to the beneficiary account (core banking) through e-payment. Divisional Assistant Director/ Regional Deputy Director will test check recommended cases at random.

## B. LARGE CARDAMOM

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance
<b>Production of Planting materials through Certified Nurseries</b>	For making available quality planting materials to the growers, Board provide assistance @ Rs.2/- per sucker for raising of sucker nurseries in farmers' field.
<b>Replanting</b>	The programme is intended to encourage the growers to take up replantation of old, senile and uneconomic gardens. A subsidy of Rs. 28000/- per ha is offered to growers owning large cardamom up to 8 ha. towards 33.33% of the cost of replanting and maintenance during gestation period. The subsidy is limited to replantation up to 4 ha. per farmer. The subsidy is paid in two equal annual instalments after inspection.
<b>Rainwater Harvesting</b>	The programme for rainwater harvesting using devices made of earth excavated pits lined with silpauline sheets is implemented in North Eastern States for large cardamom. The terms and conditions and 33.33% of the actual cost subject to a maximum of Rs.12000/- per device is offered as subsidy
<b>Curing Houses (Modified Bhatti)</b>	The large cardamom growers traditionally cure their cardamom by direct heating in the locally constructed bhatties. Capsules dried under this method are black in colour with smoky smell. ICRI-Gangtok had developed a scientific curing technology for large cardamom by introducing Modified Bhatti in which cardamom capsules are dried using indirect heating system by which the dried capsules retain the pink [maroon] colour and natural flavour. In order to popularize this method, Board is providing subsidy @ Rs.9,000/- for 200 kg capacity and Rs.12500/- for 400 kg capacity Modified Bhatti respectively, towards 33.33 % cost of construction of the Bhatti.
<b>Construction of</b>	This programme is aimed at developing water resources in the

<b>Irrigation Structures</b>	cardamom plantations, which will help the growers to irrigate their plantations in summer. Assistance is given for construction of irrigation devices @ 50% of the actual cost of construction or Rs. 20,000/- whichever is less.										
<b>Installation of Irrigation equipments</b>	Board is assisting in installing irrigation equipments @ 50% of the cost as subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs.10,000/- to farmers of large cardamom										
<b>Mechanisation</b>	Assistance is provided for purchase of equipments like pit diggers, sprayers, agricultural tools, grading sieves etc. @ 50% of actual cost of the equipment as per the details given below <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Equipment</th> <th>Scale of assistance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pit digger</td> <td>50 % cost or Rs.1500/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PP equipment</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.2000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agricultural tools</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.500/- whichever is less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grading sieves</td> <td>50% cost or Rs.1000/- whichever is less</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Equipment	Scale of assistance	Pit digger	50 % cost or Rs.1500/- whichever is less	PP equipment	50% cost or Rs.2000/- whichever is less	Agricultural tools	50% cost or Rs.500/- whichever is less	Grading sieves	50% cost or Rs.1000/- whichever is less
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### Method of operation/ Modus operandi

Interested growers will submit application in the prescribed format to the nearest office of Spices Board along with the following documents.

- Parcha copy
- Survey plan/ self-attested map- copy for replanting/plan and estimate in case of constructions, quotations in case of purchase of machines
- Copy of Voter I.D. copy/ Aadhar card/ Passport
- Copy of Bank Passbook
- No Objection Certificate from panchayats if the Land is not in the beneficiary name.
- Any other document felt to be verified by the concerned officer for ascertaining the possession of land by applicant/ beneficiary

The Spices Board official will inspect each application and recommend eligible subsidy to the Divisional Assistant Director/ Deputy Director, Regional office for sanction through Field Office Automation Software. Sanctioned cases will be forwarded to Head office and the subsidy will be credited to the beneficiary account (core banking) through e-payment. Divisional Assistant Director/ Regional Deputy Director will test check recommended cases at random.

### C) OTHER NORTH EASTERN STATES

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance
<b>Production of Planting</b>	For making available quality planting materials to the growers, Board gives assistance @ Rs.2/- per sucker for raising of sucker

<b>materials through Certified Nurseries</b>	nurseries in farmers' field.										
<b>New planting</b>	The programme is intended to encourage the growers to take up new plantation of Large Cardamom. Subsidy of Rs. 28000/- per ha. is provided to growers owning area up to 8 ha. towards the cost of new planting and maintenance during gestation period. The subsidy is limited to new plantation of 4 ha. and paid in two equal annual instalments										
<b>Rainwater Harvesting</b>	The programme for rainwater harvesting using devices made of earth excavated pits lined with silpauline sheets is implemented in North Eastern States for large cardamom. The terms and conditions and subsidy provided are same as that for cardamom small. 33.33% of the actual cost subject to a maximum of Rs.12000/- per device is offered as subsidy.										
<b>Curing Houses (Modified Bhatti)</b>	The large cardamom growers traditionally cure their cardamom by direct heating in the locally constructed bhatties. Capsules dried under this method are black in colour with smoky smell. ICRI-Gangtok had developed a scientific curing technology for large cardamom by introducing Modified Bhatti in which cardamom capsules are dried using indirect heating system by which the dried capsules retain the pink [maroon] colour and natural flavour. In order to popularize this method, Board is providing subsidy of Rs.9,000/- for 200 kg capacity and Rs.12500/- for 400 kg capacity Modified Bhatti towards 33.33% cost of construction of Modified Bhatti respectively.										
<b>Construction of Irrigation Structures</b>	This programme is aimed at developing water resources in the cardamom plantations, which will help the growers to irrigate their plantations in summer. Assistance is given for construction of irrigation devices @ 50% of the actual cost of construction or Rs 20,000/- whichever is less.										
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<b>Cultivation of Lakadong Turmeric</b>	Lakadong / Megha Turmeric is having high curcumin content and hence suitable for extraction of colour. This variety is highly location specific and is very much preferred by the exporters for extraction of the colour. Availability of quality planting materials is a major limiting factor in its production. Hence a subsidy of Rs.18750/- per ha. towards 50% of the cost of planting material is offered under the programme.
<b>Cultivation of NE Ginger</b>	Ginger varieties like Nadia and China are having higher oil content and hence suitable for exports. In order to promote organic production of these varieties in NE states, Rs. 18750/- per ha is provided as subsidy towards 50% of the cost of the planting materials.
<b>Training of officers and farmers of NE states</b>	Board arranges training programmes for the officers of the State Agri./ Horti. Departments and growers of North Eastern States on the recent advances in the areas of cultivation, harvest and post-harvest techniques of spices. The training is arranged in alternate years for officers and every year for farmers.

### Method of operation/ Modus operandi

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- Parcha copy
- Survey plan/ self attested map- copy for replanting/plan and estimate in case of constructions, quotations in case of purchase of machines
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### D) POST HARVEST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES FOR OTHER SPICES

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance
<b>Seed spice thresher</b>	<p>The harvesting and post-harvest practices followed in seed spices are unhygienic which results in contamination of the products with foreign matters like stalks, dirt, sand, stem bits etc. The seeds are separated by beating the harvested and dried plants with bamboo sticks or rubbing the plants manually by hand or trampling under the feet of the cattle.</p> <p>In order to educate the farmers and to avoid contamination in the final product, Board introduced use of threshers which are operated manually as well as with power for separating the seeds from the</p>

	<p>dried plants.</p> <p>The cost of such a power and manual thresher are estimated as Rs.1.20 lakhs and Rs.40,000/- respectively. 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.60,000/- for a power thresher and Rs.20,000/- for a manually operated thresher is provided as subsidy.</p>
<b>Pepper thresher</b>	<p>Traditionally pepper berries were separated from the spikes by trampling under the feet which is un-hygienic and labour intensive. The pepper threshers are mechanically operated, labour saving and separates berries in a hygienic way.</p> <p>50% of the cost of the equipment, subject to a maximum of Rs.15,000/- per thresher is given as subsidy</p>
<b>Bamboo mats</b>	<p>In order to enable the growers to dry pepper under hygienic condition, Board is supplying bamboo mats of size 12' x 6' at 90% subsidy to tribal growers and 50% subsidy to others. The Board arrange the centralized purchase of mats and supply to growers after collecting the non-subsidy portion.</p>
<b>Turmeric boilers</b>	<p>Fresh turmeric is cured for obtaining dry turmeric. Curing involves boiling of fresh rhizomes in water and drying in the sun. Over cooking spoils the colour of the final product while undercooking renders the dried product brittle. In conventional curing where the rhizomes are boiled in copper or galvanised iron or earthen vessels there are chances for overcooking or undercooking.</p> <p>Improved scientific cooking involves using boilers and perforated trough made of GI or MS sheet extended with parallel handle. This ensures optimum cooking of turmeric, which provides better colour and quality to the final produce. Hence, Board is popularizing the use of turmeric boilers among turmeric growers for production of quality turmeric suitable for exports. The cost of one such boiler is estimated at Rs.3,00,000/- for community use. Individual growers or groups are eligible to benefit under the scheme. 50% cost of the equipment subject to a maximum of Rs.1,50,000/- is provided subsidy under the scheme.</p>
<b>Turmeric polisher</b>	<p>Dried turmeric has a poor appearance and rough dull colour outside the surface with scales and root bits. The appearance is improved by smoothening and polishing the outer surface by manual or mechanical rubbing. Manual polishing is done by rubbing the dried turmeric fingers on a hard surface or trampling them under feet by wrapping in gunny bags. Manual polishing is an unhygienic practice, which affects quality of the product.</p> <p>The improved method of polishing turmeric is by using hand operated / power operated polishers. This ensures hygienic and effective polishing which gives better appearance to the product. Board is popularizing the practice of using improved polishers for polishing turmeric. The average cost of such a polishing machine is estimated as Rs.40,000/- for a capacity of 250-500 kg. 50 % cost of the polisher subject a maximum of Rs.20000/- is provided as subsidy.</p>
<b>Supply of IPM</b>	<p>Chilli is one of the major items in our export basket of spices.</p>



<p><b>kits</b></p>	<p>Indiscriminate use of pesticides has resulted in pesticide residues adversely affecting the export. The presences of pesticides have caused serious trade disruptions. Preventive measures are to be taken to keep pesticide residue within the permitted level to increase chilli exports from India.</p> <p>Under the programme IPM kits containing pheromone traps, bio agents like <i>Trichoderma</i>, <i>Trichogramma</i>, neem pesticides and seed worms of vermi-compost are supplied at an estimated cost of Rs.5000/- per ha to substitute the hazardous chemicals. 50% of the cost of the IPM kits or Rs.2500/- per ha is provided as subsidy</p>
<p><b>Supply of polythene/silpauline sheets</b></p>	<p>Most of the importing countries have prescribed stringent quality standards for agro products including spices. These standards are becoming more and more stringent and are becoming effective trade barriers impacting spice exports. It is therefore necessary to educate, motivate and support the growers to adopt hygienic post-harvest practices to improve the quality of spices and to create a perception all over the world that India is a source of good quality spices</p> <p>In order to enable small and marginal farmers to dry spices under hygienic conditions, Board is supplying polythene sheets / silpauline sheets (of size 8 x 6 m, 250 GSM &amp; 120 GSM respectively) at 50% subsidy to tribal growers and at 33.33% to other growers.</p> <p>Board arrange the centralized purchase of polythene sheets and supply it to growers. The non-subsidy portion is collected from the growers.</p>
<p><b>Mint distillation unit</b></p>	<p>Distillation of mint oil is usually done as an on farm process. At present majority of the farmers are using field distillation units which are poor in fuel efficiency, take long time for distillation and give low recovery of oil with poor quality. Hence there is a need to popularise efficient and improved modern distillation units. The average cost of such a unit with capacity ranging from 500–600 kg herbage developed by CIMAP is estimated as Rs.2.35 lakhs.</p> <p>Board is encouraging the installation of improved units including stainless steel / stainless steel lined field distillation units by giving assistance @ Rs.1.18 lakhs per unit or 32.5% of the actual cost whichever is less capacity ranges from 500 - 600 kg herbage per shift.</p>
<p><b>Pepper/clove ladders</b></p>	<p>Pepper grows to a height up to 30 feet and traditionally, harvesting has been done manually by using single bamboo pole. This is risky and laborious. At present, there is acute labour shortage in the pepper growing areas for harvesting pepper and also there is severe shortage in the availability of bamboo. Besides the bamboo poles are easily perishable. In view of the above, Board distribute pepper harvest ladders. Board supply aluminium ladders with a financial assistance @ 50% of cost of ladder as subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs 5000/- .</p>
<p><b>Spice cleaners/graders for pepper</b></p>	<p>The objective of the scheme is to popularize the mechanization of pepper cleaning and grading to improve the quality. Board is providing pepper cleaning/grading machines @ 50% subsidy</p>

	subject to a maximum of Rs 35,000/-.
<b>Spice slicing machine for ginger</b>	The objective of the scheme is to motivate the growers to adopt slicing of ginger / turmeric before drying using simple slicing machines to improve the quality. Board is providing 50 % cost of the slicing machine as subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs.7000/- to the growers.
<b>Tamarind/nutmeg de-huller</b>	The objective of the scheme is to popularize nutmeg de-sheller / Tamarind de-huller machines among the Nutmeg / Tamarind farmers to reduce the labour cost as well as to improve the quality of the produce. Board is providing 50% of the cost of the equipment or Rs.42500/- whichever is less as subsidy.
<b>Nutmeg driers</b>	The main objective of the scheme is to popularize the drying of nutmeg hygienically using dryers among the nutmeg farmers to produce quality nutmeg for exports. Board is providing 50% of cost of the drier subject to a maximum of Rs.30000/- as subsidy.
<b>Packing and storage unit for garlic</b>	The objective of the scheme is to promote packing and storage facilities for garlic and improve quality of the produce for export. Board is providing 50% of the cost for setting up of equipments required for setting up of primary processing facilities and accessories for storage of garlic subject to a maximum of Rs. 5/- lakh as subsidy. No assistance will be given for construction of building purpose.
<b>Herbal spice extractors &amp; Dehydration units</b>	The objective of the scheme is to promote primary processing facilities viz extraction / dehydration of the herbal spices in the herbal spice growing areas. 50% of cost of herbal spice extractor or dehydration unit subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.20 lakh per unit is provided as subsidy.
<b>Dry/fresh ginger peeling &amp; storage unit</b>	The objective of the scheme is to improve the quality of ginger by promoting setting up of primary processing facilities for ginger in the growing areas. 50% of the cost for setting up of equipments required for setting up of primary processing facilities and accessories for storage is given as subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 5/- lakh. No assistance will be given for construction of building purpose.
<b>Seed spice cleaning &amp; storage unit</b>	The objective of the scheme is to set up primary processing facilities viz. threshing, cleaning, grading and storage of seed spices for export. Board will provide 50% of the cost for setting up of equipments required for setting up of primary processing facilities and accessories for storage subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs as subsidy. No assistance will be given for construction of building purpose.
<b>Spice Washing Equipment</b>	The objective of the scheme is to motivate the growers to adopt washing of spices after harvest by using washing equipments to improve quality of the produce for export. 50% cost of the equipment or Rs.1.10 lakhs per unit is offered as subsidy.

#### **Method of operation/ Modus operandi**

Interested growers will submit application in the prescribed format to the nearest office of Spices Board along with the following documents.

- Land Tax receipt / RTC / Chitta adangal / Parcha copy or land possession certificate issued by village/local/revenue authority etc. in case of NE States
- Voter I.D. copy/ Aadhar card/ Passport- copy
- Bank Passbook First page - copy
- Any other document felt to be verified by the concerned officer for ascertaining the possession of land by applicant/ beneficiary
- Quotation from the approved manufacturer.
- In case of schemes applicable for groups/NGOS/Societies the following additional documents may also be furnished
  - a) Registration details
  - b) List of member growers in the group with area under spices
  - c) Documents to prove ownership of land and building viz. land tax receipt etc. where the unit is proposed to be installed. [If the unit is to be installed in the land / building of the one of the member grower, an agreement to use the building between the group and the member grower has to be produced.
  - d) Copy of first page of the bank pass book of Growers Group / Women Groups / NGOs / SHGs /Spices Producers Societies, etc.
  - e) MoU to be executed with the Board after issue of permit order.

The Spices Board official will inspect each application and recommend eligible subsidy to the Divisional Assistant Director/ Deputy Director, Regional office for sanction through Field Office Automation system. Sanctioned cases will be forwarded to Head office and the subsidy will be credited to the beneficiary account (core banking) through e-payment. Divisional Assistant Director/ Regional Deputy Director will test check recommended cases at random.

#### **E) PROMOTION OF ORGANIC FARMING**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Objective &amp; Scale of assistance</b>
<b>Organic cultivation of spices</b>	Since the market for organic products is gradually registering an upward trend, there is large scope for promoting organic cultivation of spices in suitable locations. The Board is assisting growers for taking up organic cultivation of spices by providing a subsidy towards 12.5% cost of production subject to a maximum of Rs.12500/- per ha.
<b>Assistance for ICS groups</b>	In the case of organic certification of grower groups, Internal Control System [ICS] is mandatory to educate and monitor the farmers on adoption of organic farming practices. Board is providing 50 % cost of maintenance of ICS subject to a maximum of Rs. 75000/- as subsidy.
<b>Organic certification</b>	The programme aims to help growers/processors of spices in acquiring organic certification which is a pre-requisite for marketing as organic spices. Under this programme, Board provides assistance to group of farmers, NGOs and Farmers Co-operative

	Societies/Associations in acquiring certification for their farms/processing units by meeting 50% cost of the certification, subject to a maximum of Rs. 1.00 Lakh. Individuals and processors are eligible for 50% of the cost of certification subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000/- per certification.
<b>Vermicompost units</b>	There is need to produce organic inputs in the farm itself to maintain soil fertility in organic production. In order to enable the growers to produce organic farm inputs, particularly vermicompost, Rs. 3000/- is offered as 33.33% subsidy to growers to set up a unit with one ton output of vermicompost.
<b>Bio agent production unit:</b>	The objective of the scheme is to make available quality bio control agents viz. Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, EPN, Beauveria, Verticillium etc. in the spices growing areas by assisting in setting up bio- agent production units. These units will also serve as training cum demonstration centres for those growers who are interested in starting bio-agent production units. NGOs / SHGs / Spices Producer Societies / Farmers Group etc having technical capacity and credible records are eligible to avail benefit under the scheme. The Board will provide a maximum subsidy of Rs.1.50 lakhs per unit or 50% of the cost whichever is less for the purchase of equipments and accessories and mother culture for setting up the bio-agent production unit.
<b>Organic seed bank</b>	The objective is to establish organic seed banks in the growers' field for multiplication of planting materials of indigenous varieties of ginger and turmeric having rich intrinsic value and herbal spices to retain purity and serve as a source for quality planting materials. Individual growers of these varieties of spices who are under organic certification are eligible to avail benefits under the scheme. The Board will provide 50% of cost of planting materials subject to a maximum of Rs.25,000/- per ha for indigenous ginger and turmeric varieties and Rs.15000/- for herbal spices as subsidy.

### **Method of operation/ Modus operandi**

Interested growers will submit application in the prescribed format to the nearest office of Spices Board along with the following documents

#### 1. Organic cultivation

Copy of land document, Voter ID and bank pass book first page, copy of the contract executed with certification agency along with farmer's applications

#### 2. Organic certification

a).Documents to be submitted along with the Part-I application

Copy of the contract executed with certification agency along with farmer's applications, Quotation / Estimate received from Certification Body towards cost of certification, In case of groups, registration details of the group, details of member farmers in the group ie name, address, survey no., village, area under organic cultivation, area under spices etc.

b).Documents to be submitted with Part-II application.

Copy of the Scope Certificate ie C1, C2, C3 (in conversion) or organic status (as the case may be) along with annexures / attachments issued by the Certification Body. Invoice / Cash receipt from Certification Body towards payment of inspection and certification charges

### 3. Bio agent production

List of members of the NGOs / SHGs / Spices Producer Societies / Farmers Groups indicating the village, total area and area under spices. Their profile containing the details of registration as NGO, area of operation, experience in implementing Agricultural programmes etc. Documents to prove ownership of land and building viz. land tax receipt etc. [ If the land / building is in one of the member growers' name, the agreement to use the building between the group and the member grower has to be produced.] A detailed project report with cost estimates for setting up the Unit, Competitive quotations for equipments/instruments to be purchased for the unit. Details of qualified staff to manage the production of bio-agents. Plan of the building and lay out for installation of equipments. Copy of first page of the bank pass book of the NGO /SHG/Group / SPS, Project Report, MoU to be executed with the Board after issue of permit order.

### 4. Vermicompost unit

- Copy of Land documents such as land tax receipt / Percha /Chitta adangal etc.
- Copy of ID proof preferably Voter ID
- Copy of bank passbook first page

### 5. Organic seed bank

A letter from ICS to prove farmer as organic grower along with scope certificate

The Spices Board official will inspect each application and recommend eligible subsidy to the Divisional Assistant Director/ Deputy Director, Regional office for sanction. Sanctioned cases will be forwarded to Head office and the subsidy will be credited to the beneficiary account (core banking) through e-payment. Divisional Assistant Director/ Regional Deputy Director will test check recommended cases at random.

## F) SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMMES

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance
<b>Spice Producers Societies</b>	Board encourages the formation of spice producer's society and these societies will function as nodal centers for dissemination of information to farmers, who are members of the society and act as bridge linking the Board and the farmers. If equipped, these societies can collectively go for organic farming, primary processing which could be done for conventional spices also. Similarly training programmes could be arranged through these societies. In addition to the formation of spice producer's societies (SPS), Board is promoting processing and value addition at primary level for whole spices. Assistance will be given to registered SPS for drying, cleaning, grading and packing of whole spices @ 50% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 6 Lakhs per SPS. Production of quality spices adhering to GAP and GMP will help them to a premium price for their produce. Backward linkage, direct procurement by exporters can be linked to the SPS by eliminating the role of intermediaries for a better price realization. These groups can function as nodal groups for promoting traceability in spices.

### Method of operation/ Modus operandi

The SPS will submit a detailed proposal for availing assistance along with quotations to the nearest office of the Board. The Officer in charge of the Board will assess the feasibility and recommend to HO. The HO will issue permit order for purchase / setting up the facilities. On completion of the installation / set up, the Board will make the payment of eligible grant in aid through e-payment to the bank account of SPS.

## G) EXTENSION ADVISORY

Component	Objective & Scale of assistance
<b>Extension visit &amp; meeting</b>	Transfer of technical know-how to growers on production and post-harvest improvement of spices is an important factor in increasing productivity and improving quality of spices. This programme envisages technical/extension support to growers on the scientific aspects of cultivation and post-harvest management through personal contact, field visits, group meetings and through distribution of literature in vernacular languages for development of small cardamom in the states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu & large cardamom in the states of Sikkim & West Bengal and selected spices in the North East region and post-harvest improvement in other spice growing regions. The pay and allowances of the staff in the Development Department, their TA/DA, expenditure on vehicle, office establishment and other contingencies are accounted in the programme.

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