

**Action taken on various decisions made by the 12th Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality held on 3rd September 2006, Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka**

Ref.	Decisions/Recommendations	Action Taken
	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality was held at Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2006. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka and organized jointly by the Department of Export Agriculture, the Spice Council, Spices and Allied Products Producers &amp; Traders Association (SAPPTA), Export Development Board (EDB) of Sri Lanka and the International Pepper Community, Jakarta.</p> <p>The meeting was attended by the members of the Committee and other invitees. The list of delegates is given as <b><u>Annex 01</u></b>.</p>	Noted
1	<p><b>Adoption of the Agenda</b></p> <p>The proposed agenda was amended and adopted as given in <b><u>Annex 02</u></b>.</p>	Noted
2	<p><b>Opening Address by Executive Director of IPC</b></p> <p>The Executive Director welcomed the members of the Committee and invitees. He hoped that the Committee would provide constructive recommendations during the deliberations.</p>	Noted
3	<p><b>Election of Vice Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee</b></p> <p>The Meeting elected Mr. S.P. Prematilake as Vice-Chairman of the Meeting. The Vice Chairman will be the Chairman of the Drafting Committee which consists of Mr. K.R.K. Menon of India and Mr. Zehnder Jarroop of Malaysia as members of the Drafting Committee.</p>	Noted
4	<p><b>Review on the action taken and progress of the decisions made at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005 in Bali, Indonesia</b></p> <p>The Meeting took note of the report of Meeting of Experts Members on Quality held in Kuching on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The report of is given as <b><u>Annex 03</u></b>.</p> <p>The actions taken and progress of the decisions made at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting shall be discussed under the respective agenda headings.</p>	Noted
4.1	<p><b>Microbiology</b></p> <p>The Meeting was informed that US FDA BAM 8<sup>th</sup> edition has been adopted as the IPC methods for microbiological analysis for Salmonella, Yeast &amp; Mould, APC &amp; E. <i>Coli</i> and Coliforms Bacteria. India agreed to conduct a training course for microbiological and aflatoxin analysis in February 2007 for six participants from IPC member countries. The trainees should be graduates in Science with experience in chemical and microbiological analysis of spices. India has agreed to provide accommodation and local transportation for the trainees during the training period.</p>	The IPC training on Microbiology and Aflatoxin Analysis has been held from 9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2007 at Quality Evaluation Laboratory of Spices Board, Cochin India. The training was hosted by the Spices Board and was attended by quality personnel from Indonesia (2), Malaysia (1) and Sri Lanka (1).

Action taken on various decisions made by the 12th Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality  
held on 3rd September 2006, Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Ref.	Decisions/Recommendations	Action Taken
		<p>Brazil and Vietnam who had previously submitted their nominees, due to unforeseen circumstances, had decided to withdraw their participation.</p> <p>Mr. KRK Menon, expert member from India is expected to brief the meeting on the training.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Pesticide Residues</b></p> <p>The Meeting noted that the Codex MRLs for Spices are for dried spices and pepper is classified under "Fruits or Berries" group of spices. The Meeting suggested that all IPC member countries should evaluate the list of pesticides under Codex MRLs for Spices and compare it with the list of permitted chemicals in their respective member countries and submit the information to IPC Secretariat latest by 1<sup>st</sup> week of November.</p> <p>IPC will then provide inputs to the IOSTA which will have its meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Codex MRLs for Spices is given as <u>Annex 04</u>.</p> <p>India agreed to provide the multi-residue screening methods for pesticide residue analysis to Malaysia for evaluation and comments before the next meeting of IPC Committee on Quality.</p> <p>Mr. Roger Clarke, the representative of ESA has agreed that the progress on multi-residue screening methods developed by European Spice Association will be made available to IPC before next meeting of IPC Committee.</p>	<p>The IPC Secretariat has requested the member countries through their expert members of IPC Committee on Quality to provide the required information to be brought to IOSTA meeting held in 17<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The IPC was represented by Mr. Ng Siaw Chung, Chairman of IPC Committee on Quality, at the IOSTA meeting. The report of the IOSTA Meeting is given as <u>Annex 03</u></p> <p>IPC has received a document on "Multi Residue Test Methods used by Spices Board Laboratory for the Pesticide Residue Analysis" from Mr. KRK Menon, expert member from India. The document is given as <u>Annex 04</u></p> <p>As agreed in the last Meeting, the European Spice Association has been kind enough to provide the required document on multi-residue screening methods used by the ESA members. The document is enclosed as <u>Annex 05</u></p>
4.3	<p><b>Mycotoxins</b></p> <p>Regarding the Codex criteria on testing methodology for mycotoxins, the Meeting was informed that IPC has written to the Codex Representative, Dr. Jeronimas Maskeliunas on this matter but has not received a response yet.</p> <p>The ESA representative also informed the meeting that ochratoxin testing methods and sampling plan are under evaluation and on finalization, the same will be made available to IPC for circulation.</p>	<p>Reply from Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme (Codex Commission) in response to IPC request is given as Annex 06 for reference.</p> <p>IPC has sent request to ESA to provide the information in respect of ochratoxin testing methods and sampling plan. ESA informed that at present there are no validated testing methods for Ochratoxin in spices and</p>

Action taken on various decisions made by the 12th Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality  
held on 3rd September 2006, Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Ref.	Decisions/Recommendations	Action Taken
		that ESA does not have official sampling procedures.
4.4.	<p><b>Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Check Programme</b></p> <p>The report on 9<sup>th</sup> round of Inter-Labs Proficiency Checking Programme is given as <u>Annex 05</u>.</p> <p>The Meeting noted that a few participating laboratories scored more than +2 and less than -2 of z score. It was agreed that the IPC secretariat will inform these laboratories of the results so that they can take the necessary corrective action</p> <p>India has agreed to send the samples to the participating laboratories for the 10<sup>th</sup> round during April 2007. The samples shall be accompanied with phytosanitary certificates to facilitate custom clearance. The 10<sup>th</sup> round should include microbiological and intrinsic chemical analyses. India is also requested to prepare a guideline for the proper sampling and dispatch of materials.</p> <p>In considering the request by laboratories in importing countries to be included in the programme, the Meeting welcomed their participation but agreed that they should be charged a fee.</p>	IPC has requested Mr. KRK Menon, expert member of IPC Committee from India to despatch the samples to 17 participating laboratories through the expert members in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam for the 10 <sup>th</sup> round of IPC Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Check Programme.
4.5	<p><b>Terms of Reference (TOR) for broadening the scope of IPC Committee on Quality</b></p> <p>The following amendments were suggested:</p> <p><u>Objective of the Committee</u></p> <p><i>The primary objective of the Committee shall be to improve the quality of all pepper and pepper products produced, traded and exported from the member countries of IPC so as to provide safe products of good quality for consumers while safeguarding the interests of pepper producers.</i></p> <p><u>Interaction with National and International Agencies</u></p> <p><i>Provide inputs representing the views, interests and concerns of IPC member countries in deliberations of national and international organizations on matters related to pepper quality including interaction with technical committees of spice associations.</i></p> <p>The Meeting agreed to accept the above amendments on the TOR. The revised Term of Reference is given as <u>Annex 06</u>.</p>	Noted
4.6	<p><b>Sampling Methods for Pepper</b></p> <p>It is decided that all member countries should prepare a presentation on sampling methods for various types of packaging adopted by the respective countries before the next Meeting of the IPC Committee on Quality.</p> <p>The sampling methods should cover all the elements related to packaging, storage, drawing of samples etc.</p>	IPC has requested member countries to submit the required document to be incorporated in the meeting documents for further discussion and consideration.

**Action taken on various decisions made by the 12th Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality held on 3rd September 2006, Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka**

Ref.	Decisions/Recommendations	Action Taken
4.7	<p><b>Good Agricultural Practices for Pepper</b></p> <p>The Committee recommended that a drafting group of experts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka should assemble at the IPC Secretariat and draw up the GAP Guidelines for Pepper in November 2006.</p> <p>Sri Lanka has nominated Mr. Premathilake as its expert member. India and Malaysia are to nominate their experts during the current IPC meetings.</p>	<p>A group of experts have met twice in IPC Secretariat Jakarta, first was in November 2006 to draw up the draft of IPC GAP for Pepper and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting was in April 2007 to finalize the GAP for Pepper. The IPC GAP finalized by experts from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka at the 2<sup>nd</sup> GAP meeting is given as <b><u>Annex 10.</u></b></p>
4.8	<p><b>Review of the IPC Code of Hygiene Practices</b></p> <p>The Meeting agreed that the review of IPC Code of Hygiene Practices should be done only after the IPC GAP and GMP guidelines have been developed.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
4.9	<p><b>Intrinsic Quality</b></p> <p>In view of the proposal for developing and promoting IPC standards which highlight the positive/beneficial attributes of pepper, the Meeting agreed that IPC should develop a database of the intrinsic quality (nutritional contents, phytochemicals, etc) of pepper, the testing methodologies and relevant standards.</p>	<p>IPC has requested member countries to furnish the available information on this subject. However, to date IPC has not received any response.</p>
4.10	<p><b>Action Plan 2007-2009</b></p> <p>In the Meeting, the tentative action plan (which was drawn up in the Meeting of Expert Member on Quality, on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006, in Kuching) was reviewed. The revised action plan is given as <b><u>Annex 07.</u></b></p>	<p>Noted</p>
5.	<p><b>Other Matters</b></p> <p>The following matters were discussed.</p>	
5.1	<p><b>Black Berries in White Pepper</b></p> <p>The Meeting agreed there should be a set of standard samples for identifying the black berries in white pepper. Malaysia agreed to prepare the reference standards for this purpose.</p>	<p>IPC Secretariat has received sets of samples from Mr. Zehnder Jarrop, expert member of IPC Committee from Malaysia, for identifying the black berries in white pepper (letter ref. no. (7) MPB (S) 12/1/3 (2007) Jilid 1 dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007).</p> <p>The samples have been sent to the participating laboratories in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam through the expert members in the respective countries for their follow up action.</p>

**Action taken on various decisions made by the 12th Meeting of IPC Committee on Quality  
held on 3rd September 2006, Earl's Regency, Kandy, Sri Lanka**

Ref.	Decisions/Recommendations	Action Taken
5.2	<b>Decorticated Pepper and Other Related Issues</b> The Meeting was informed that consuming countries have raised issues related to decortication of black pepper and the use of chemicals and other aids in processing to enhance appearance and improve colour. After deliberation, the Meeting agreed that IPC would encourage the production of natural pepper products. However, in cases where pepper products are produced through processes / treatments using certain chemicals, the Meeting agreed that processes / treatments and chemicals used by processors should be safe and declared to buyers or importers. All these issues should be addressed in the IPC GAP and GMP guidelines.	This subject has been brought for consideration by the group of experts formed to draw up the GAP for Pepper. The issue on decortication of black pepper has been incorporated in the IPC GAP for Pepper (point 7.3.3).
5.3	<b>Quality Issues on IPC Website</b> India suggested that IPC member countries should be allocated slots in the IPC website to present their respective quality issues.	IPC Secretariat has taken up necessary action in developing Technical Section. This section now provides slots for the member countries to present their quality issues at the IPC website.
5.4	<b>Position of Technical Officer in IPC</b> It was suggested that a new post of technical officer to undertake and coordinate technical activities should be created at IPC Secretariat. The Executive Director would bring up the matter at the Heads of Delegation Meeting.	This issue has been included in the IPC proposal called Reorganization of the IPC Secretariat placed for consideration by the coming HOD meeting.
5.5	<b>Papers for "Focus on Pepper"</b> The Executive Director has requested that members submit technical papers related to pepper for the publication in the IPC pepper journal "Focus on Pepper".	IPC has sent request through Liaison officers in member countries. Other than an article from Dr. M. Dharmadasa of the Dept. of Export Agriculture, Sri Lanka, IPC however has not received any articles from other member countries
06.	<b>Consideration and adoption of the Report of 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Quality</b> This Report will be tabled at the 37 <sup>th</sup> Pepper Exporters' Meeting for adoption.	Noted
07.	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> The Executive Director proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and members of IPC Committee on Quality.	Noted