

**INTERNATIONAL PEPPER COMMUNITY**  
**REPORT OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF**  
**THE IPC COMMITTEE ON QUALITY**

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011 (09.00 – 13.00)  
Lombok Island, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

**Introduction**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPC Committee on Quality was held in Senggigi, Lombok Island, Indonesia on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011. The meeting which was hosted by the Government of Indonesia was attended by expert members and representatives of member countries from Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The list of delegates is given as Annex 01

**1. Address by Executive Director of IPC.**

The Executive Director welcomed all the expert members and representatives from the IPC member countries. He gave an introductory remark on the importance and responsibilities of IPC Committee on Quality and called for better cooperation and support from the member countries. He has also explained the difficulty of the Chairperson, Mrs. Husniaty, Head of the Center of Supervision and Quality Control, Ministry of Trade, for not attending the meeting and briefed on the detailed discussion had on each agenda item for consideration.

**2 Adoption of agenda.**

The proposed agenda was accepted and adopted by the Committee and is given as Annex 02.

**3 Election of Chairman / Vice Chairman of the Meeting and Members of the Drafting Committee**

As proposed, the representative of Indonesia, Mrs. Nanan Nurdajah of the Agriculture Ministry, was elected as Chairperson of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IPC Committee on Quality.

Mr. Sarada de Silva of Sri Lanka proposed Mr. W.D.L. Gunaratne of Sri Lanka to be the Vice Chairman of the Meeting, which was unanimously agreed. The Vice Chairman will be the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, which was constituted and comprised of the following members:

Mr. Johannes Torrecillas of Brazil  
Mr. Suresh Kumar of India  
Ms. Dyah Palupi of Indonesia  
Mr. Augustine Joseph of Malaysia  
Dr. A.P Heenkende of Sri Lanka  
Dr. Bui Chi Buu of Vietnam

**4 Review of the actions taken and progress of the decisions made by the last Meeting of Expert Members of Committee on Quality held on 16-17 March 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia, covering the following subjects:**

The meeting reviewed the decisions made in the last Meeting of the Expert Members on Quality and the action taken (*Annex 03*) on the followings:

**a) Review of the IPC Code of Hygiene Practices for Pepper (GMP)**

The Committee discussed the importance of having a separate GMP Document for Pepper whereby the meeting agreed that Expert Members of Committee on Quality will have a separate meeting by March 2012 for a detailed discussion to prepare the GMP document for pepper by IPC.

However, representatives from Association of Brazil Exporters of Pepper (ABEP) informed members of the meeting that this matter is required to be referred to the Brazilian Government for consideration as the association does not have the authority to decide on this matter.

The meeting also decided that all member countries are to submit the relevant information on GMP to IPC Secretariat latest by February 2012 for further comment.

**b) Pesticide Residues**

It was noted that to increase the number of pesticides registered for use in cultivations of small areas, category in which Black pepper falls into, was published on February 24, 2010, the Joint Normative Instruction MAPA, Anvisa and IBAMA, No. 1, which establishes the guidelines and requirements for the registration of pesticides, their components and similar for crops with insufficient phytosanitary support, as well as the maximum residues limit permitted. Brazil is revising this regulation to include other pesticides that may be used for Black Pepper production.

The representative of Association of Brazilian Pepper Producers and Exporters (ABEP) informed that several pesticides which were listed in the IPC proposal are not permitted to be used in Brazil. Representatives from other member countries also informed the meeting that several of the pesticides listed in the proposal are either banned or restricted for use.

Trade representative from the consuming countries has suggested to the meeting that possible cross contamination of pesticides from other crops/spices to pepper farms and also judicial use of permitted chemicals must also be taken into consideration.

The IPC Executive Director has requested the trade representatives from consuming countries to provide the information on the permitted chemicals which can be used and the permissible residue limits set by major consuming countries for further consideration by the Committee.

The meeting agreed to this proposed project in which it was also recommended that IPC to explore the possibility of getting funding from donor agencies as this proposed project involved high cost in terms of testing and sample preparation.

The proposal is given in Annex 04.

**c) Mycotoxins**

The meeting took note on the information submitted by Brazil that in 2011 Brazil started to monitor Aflatoxins in Black pepper. Results will be presented in 2012.

The meeting was also informed that India have already submitted test results to the IPC Secretariat on Mycotoxin/Aflatoxin. Expert member from Indonesia informed that they have recovery data on Aflatoxin using ASTA & AOAC methods, which will be submitted for discussion at the Expert Meeting in March 2012.

Malaysia informed that they will submit the monitoring data on Mycotoxin / Aflatoxins to IPC Secretariat before the March meeting in 2012.

Meanwhile representative of the Association of Brazilian Pepper Producers and Exporters (ABEP) informed that Brazil does not have problem with Mycotoxins in which they will liaise with IPC Secretariat if they encounter such problem in the future.

**d) IPC Inter-laboratory Proficiency Testing Programme, 14th round and discussion on the analytical results and suggestions**

The meeting was informed that IPC has received the test results for macro / micro testing from 18 participating laboratories and has compiled the final test results. However, as these results are reported to have a wide variation for certain parameters such as moisture content, litter weight, it was decided that the test methods followed by the participating laboratories may be collected for appropriate evaluation and further action.

**e) Sampling Methods for Pepper**

The meeting also agreed that all participating laboratories should follow the IPC standard sampling methods and other parameters for having a comparative evaluation.

**f) Trainings**

The Executive Director briefed the Meeting on the training programme on GAP supported by IPC in the major growing areas in Indonesia.

The meeting was informed by representatives from Vietnam and Sri Lanka that the IPC GAP translated into their respective local languages is in the final stage. Representative from Malaysia meanwhile informed that the translation work for the GAP document will be completed soon. The meeting also requested Brazil to translate the document to its local language to enable the document to be used by local farmers in Brazil.

Representatives from Vietnam conveyed their appreciation to IPC for supporting the GAP training whereby farmers from all member countries will benefit from this training programme

The representative of Sri Lanka has requested IPC to explore the possibility of developing a test kit to monitor quality at the farm level by extension workers whereby the meeting has agreed to look into this matter.

**5. Discussion on the proposal for extending the Inter-laboratory proficiency testing programme to leading laboratories in importing countries.**

In this connection, the meeting has agreed that participating laboratories in importing countries should comply with ISO/IEC17025 which is the general requirement for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

For sample providers, IPC Secretariat is required to identify/outsource the providers' laboratory who comply with ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment – General Requirement for Proficiency, Testing and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation ILAC-G13: Guideline for Requirement for Competence of Providers at Proficiency Test Schemes.

**6. Certificate to the participating laboratories in the IPC Inter-labs Proficiency Testing Programme.**

The meeting has agreed that the main objective of the Inter-Laboratory proficiency testing programme is to standardize the IPC testing and sampling methods. Since the objective is to minimize the errors in the test & sampling methods and the IPC does not the competency for giving accreditation and certification, the proposal was not agreed.

However, it was mentioned by Malaysia that a simple letter of appreciation to participating laboratories may be considered to those qualified laboratories.

**7. Discussion and consideration of the proposal for training of technical personnel on the analysis of various parameters, by expert member of India.**

The meeting was informed that there were no requests from member countries to participate in the training of technical personnel on the analysis of various parameters by expert member of India. However, the meeting has proposed that the IPC Secretariat to come up with a proposal for training of technical personnel for further consideration. In this connection India has agreed to provide the required service in this regard.

The meeting also agreed that participating member countries are to bear travelling and accommodation expenses for this purpose.

**8. Discussion and consideration on the proposal for developing a method to identify the origin of pepper, by expert member of Malaysia**

Representative of Malaysia presented to the meeting a paper on “Classification of Geographical Growing Origin of Food Commodities” whereby the meeting appreciate the efforts taken. The details for conducting the study may be provided to all the member countries by Malaysia for further consideration.

The paper is given in Annex 05.

**9. Generating data on the presence of VO, Piperine, Litter weight and Oleoresin in pepper by analysing samples of major growing areas in each member countries**

The meeting has agreed with the proposal from the IPC whereby member countries are requested to provide details on variety, maturity of harvest, geographical location and assist IPC for getting the required sample for testing in order to generate sufficient data on these parameters. However, each member countries are requested to submit the details to the IPC Secretariat along with the budget requirements for further consideration.

**10. Others Matters**

As proposed by Mrs. Hunsiaty, the Chairperson of the Committee on Quality, IPC Secretariat is to initiate action for developing IPC Standards for Ground Pepper, Crushed pepper, Packaging etc.

It was decided that IPC Secretariat is to compile the standard, methods of analysis, quality parameters, and standards currently applicable in each member country and spice associations/food regulators such as USFDA, ASTA, ESA, ANSA, etc.

The final compilation of the document should be presented at the next meeting of IPC Committee on Quality for approval.

It was also decided that IPC shall collect and compile the medicinal/health values of pepper, new applications, recipes and other uses of pepper and pepper products. The compiled details may be published for promoting consumption of pepper and pepper based products.

**11. Consideration and Adoption of the Report**

The meeting adopted the report.

**12. Vote of Thanks**

The Chairperson of the Meeting thanked all the participants and expert members of the Committee on Quality and the IPC for the useful and constructive discussion and suggestions.

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