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National Conference on Spices, Aromatic & Medicinal Plants for Economic Prosperity and Ecological Sustainability gets underway at CIARI

Port Blair, Oct. 5

The two-day National Conference on Spices, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants for Economic Prosperity and Ecological Sustainability-2023 being organized by Andaman Science Association (ASA), Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands in collaboration with Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD), Kerala got underway today in hybrid mode with its inauguration by the chief guest, Ms. Nandini Paliwal, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, A&N



Administration at Dr. T.R. Dutta Conference Hall.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest remarked that the research outcome is complete, when it is converted by the policy makers benefitting the farmers/ stakeholders. She emphasised that agri-horticulture activity

should gratify farmers and motivate them to have balance with agriculture and tourism. She also stressed that ventures should be economically viable so as to converge technology in policy, deliberate keeping Andaman as a case study to bring out the strategy and a

compilation of best practices on post-harvest and value addition of spices as ready reckoner for policy makers. She concluded her address by referring to DFI of GoI, wherein the importance of spices is mentioned and to achieve the goal, new ways have to be identified to ensure betterment of farmers with economic sustainability. The chief guest also released Souvenir of abstract and institute publications on the occasion.

The Director, CIARI
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National Conference on Spices, Aromatic & ...

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& President, ASA, Dr. E.B. Chakurkar, informed that spices being low volume and high value crop is of national importance. The recommendation from the deliberation of this conference will facilitate the A & N Administration to improve the status of the spice farmers by having a unique brand of Andaman and also add to the national exchequer.

Earlier, the guest of honours, Dr. Homey Cheriyan, Director, Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Kozhikode, delivered the keynote address on 'Potential of Spices in Andaman & Nicobar Islands' while Dr. M. Madhava Naidu, Ex Head, CSIR-Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore spoke on 'Technological intervention: Value Addition of Herbs & Spices for Economic Prosperity'.



Dr. R. Dinesh, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Kerala, Dr. Manish Das, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Anand, Gujarat & Dr. Vijay Mahajan, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Onion and Garlic Research, Pune, Maharashtra, Dr. Vinay Bharadwaj, Director, Directorate of Seed Spices, Ajmer, Dr. K. Pradheep, Principal Scientist and OIC, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Regional Station, Thrissur & Dr. K. B. Ramesh Kumar, Principal Scientist and SIC, CIF, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and delegates from A & N Administration attended the inaugural function. Around 150 participants from 22 States/ including UTs are participating in the conference in offline and online mode, during which a total of 120 research papers will be presented by the reputed researchers, academicians and scholars from across the Nation in two days' period.

At the outset, Dr. P.K. Singh, Principal Scientist, Head HCIP & Convener welcomed the gathering while Dr. Ajit Arun Waman, Organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks & Dr. Pooja Bohra, Co-Organizing Secretary coordinated the inaugural programme, a press release from CIARI said.